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FBIS-NES-90-199 CONTENTS *15 October 1990*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Aziz, Al-Qasim in Rabat for Jerusalem Committee *[Rabat Radio]* 1
  Further on Arrival, Statements *[INA]* 1
Expected Syrian-Egyptian Gulf 'Initiative' Viewed *[AFP]* 2
League Official Reacts to Events in Lebanon *[Algiers Radio]* 2
League Council Emergency Session Planned 17 Oct *[Tunis Radio]* 3
Iraq Said Seeking Yemen Help To Hush Report *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Oct]* 3

Islamic Affairs

Islamists Call for Strong UN Response to 'Crime' *[INA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to UN Resolution on Al-Aqsa Incident 4
  'Abd-Rabbuh Says 'Inadequate' *[Baghdad VOP]* 4
  Discussed by Fatah Committee *[INA]* 4
  Editor Calls It U.S. 'Scandal' *[Baghdad VOP]* 4
PLO Council Issues Statement on Regional Events *[Sanaa VOP]* 5
Yasir 'Arafat Interviewed by Iranian Paper *[IRNA]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives, Comments on Visit *[INA]* 8
  Meets Hamrouche, Discusses Ties *[INA]* 8
  Views UK Statement on Force *[Algiers Radio]* 8
'Serious' Disturbances Reported in Town of Kais *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Incidents in Tebessa, Oued Barda, Constantine *[Algiers Radio]* 9

Egypt

Developments Relating to Al-Mahjub Assassination 10
  Butrus Ghali Comments *[MENA]* 10
  Islamic Group Claims Responsibility *[AFP]* 10
  Muslim Leaders Deny Knowing Group *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
  Death Toll Rises to Four *[MENA]* 11
  Driver Dies; Death Toll at Six *[MENA]* 11
  Mubarak Participates in Funeral *[MENA]* 11
  'External Group' Implicated *[MENA]* 11
  Further on Investigation *[MENA]* 11
  Suspects Detained at Airport, Ports *[MENA]* 12
  Five Nationals Investigated *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 7 Oct]* 12
  Condemned by Fundamentalist Leader *[AFP]* 12
  Denounced by Opposition *[Cairo Radio]* 13
  Thatcher Sends Condolences *[MENA]* 13
  'Palestinian Embassy' Condolences *[MENA]* 13

  - 'Arafat Cables Condolences *[MENA]* 13
  - Fatah Representative Comments *[MENA]* 13
  - Commentary Disallows Leniency *[Cairo Radio]* 13
- Britain's Hurd Arrives, Comments on Gulf Crisis *[MENA]* 14
  - Discusses Ties, Region With Sidqi *[MENA]* 15
  - Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid, Mubarak *[MENA]* 15
  - Meets Mubarak on 'Military Balance' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 15
  - Says 'We Will Not Wait Forever' *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 15
  - Discusses Events With Abu-Talib *[MENA]* 16
  - Holds Joint News Conference *[Cairo Radio]* 16
  - Further on News Conference *[MENA]* 16
  - Ends Official Visit, Goes to Luxor *[Cairo Radio]* 17
- Egyptian Commander in Saudi Arabia Interviewed *[Cairo Radio]* 18
- 'Abd-al-Majid on Israeli Refusal To Investigate *[MENA]* 20
- Consultative Council Views UN Resolutions *[Cairo Radio]* 20
- Mubarak Issues Decree Dissolving Assembly *[Cairo Radio]* 20
- Gulf Fund Extends Aid for Rehabilation Projects *[Cairo Radio]* 20
- Commentary Urges Solidarity Against Israel *[Cairo Radio]* 20
- Ghali Discusses Rwanda Situation with OAU Head *[MENA]* 21

Libya

- Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Tripoli With Delegation *[Tripoli TV]* 21
  - Meets Jallud, Al-Kharrubi *[INA]* 22
  - Delivers Message to Al-Qadhdhafi *[INA]* 22
  - Departs Tripoli 14 Oct *[JANA]* 23

Tunisia

- Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Tunis With Message *[Tunis Radio]* 23
  - Confers With President *[INA]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

- Diplomatic Relations Established With CSFR *[WAKH]* 24

Kuwait

- Resistance Stinger Said To Down Iraqi Plane *[Cairo Radio]* 24
- Iraq Drains French Embassy Water Tank *[Paris Radio]* 24
- GCC Secretary-General Calls for Liberation *[SPA]* 24
- Amir Addresses Popular Conference in Jeddah *[Riyadh TV]* 24
  - Conference Resumes *[SPA]* 25
  - Ends First Closed Session *[SPA]* 25
  - Ends Second Closed Session *[SPA]* 25

Oman

- Saudi Joint Forces Commander Arrives 14 Oct 26
  - On Tour of GCC States *[Muscat TV]* 26
  - Departs Muscat *[Muscat TV]* 26

Qatar

- Saudi General, Amir Discuss Military Matters *[WAKH]* 26
  - Departs 14 Oct *[WAKH]* 26
- Czech Official, Delegation on 'Goodwill Mission' *[Prague Radio]* 26
  - Meets With Amir *[WAKH]* 26
  - Diplomatic Ties Established *[WAKH]* 27

Saudi Arabia

- Kuwaiti Brigade Sent to Saudi Front *[SPA]* 27
- Turkey's Ozal Arrives in Jeddah 13 Oct *[SPA]* 27
    - Meets With King *[Bayrak Radio]* 27
- King Sends Condolences on Egyptian Speaker *[Riyadh TV]* 28

United Arab Emirates

- Turkish President Ozal Arrives in Abu Dhabi *[WAKH]* 28
    - Meets With President *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 28
    - Concludes Visit *[WAKH]* 28

Yemen

- Salih Receives Saddam Cable on Anniversary *[Sanaa Radio]* 28

IRAQ

- Saddam Husayn Issues Child Day Message 12 Oct *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
- USSR Warned Against Divulging Secrets to U.S. *[INA]* 31
- Photographs Said To Point to Uranium Mining *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 32
- Reports Say Nation Agrees to Partial Withdrawal 32
    - Baghdad Informed Amman *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 32
    - Saddam Tells Primakov *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 32
    - Editor Denies Reports *[INA]* 33
    - Jasim Says Reports False *[Amman Radio]* 33
- Ministry Source Denounces U.S. Detention of Ship *[INA]* 33
- News Agency Reports 'Harassment' of Tanker *[INA]* 33
- Soviet Nationals Leave Baghdad for Moscow *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 33
- Nation Resumes Diplomatic Ties With Iran *[Baghdad Radio]* 34
- Editor Denies Involvement in Al-Mahjub Killing *[INA]* 34
- Paper Calls UN Resolution 'Insignificant' *[INA]* 34
- 'Sources' on Nationals Escaping Baghdad, Security *[SPA]* 35
- Saddam, 'Arafat Discuss Position on Al-Aqsa *[INA]* 35
- 'Aziz Leaves for Jordan With Message for King *[INA]* 35
- 'Aziz To Discuss Jerusalem Incident in Rabat *[INA]* 35
- Food Donated by Jordanian Companies Arrives *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 12 Oct]* 35

ISRAEL

- Cabinet Rejects Security Council Resolution 36
    - Text of Official Announcement *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Oct]* 36
    - Levi Explains Cabinet Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
    - Further on Cabinet Resolution *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
- UN Said Trying To Dictate Jerusalem Security *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
- Government May Send Inquiry Report to UN *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
- Plans To Boost Jerusalem's Immigrant Absorption *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
- U.S.-Syria Alliance Eased Moves in Lebanon *[Jerusalem TV]* 39

JORDAN

- Government Decision To Deport Egyptians Reported *[MENA]* 40
- Source Denies Report of Secret Saddam Visit *[Amman Radio]* 40
- Tariq 'Aziz Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement *[Amman Radio]* 40
    - Calls UN Resolution 'Shame' *[Amman Radio]* 40
    - Meets With King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 41
    - Leaves Amman 13 Oct *[Amman Radio]* 41
- King Cables Mubarak on Speaker's Assassination *[Amman Radio]* 41
- Assassination Reveals 'Flimsy' Democracy in Egypt *[AL-RA'Y 13 Oct]* 41
- Minister Calls UN Resolution 'Good Beginning' *[Amman TV]* 42

- UN Resolution 'New Opening' for Palestine Issue *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Oct]* 42
- Paper Says U.S. Disrupted UN Security Council *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Oct]* 43
- Badran, UN Envoy Discuss Resolutions' Impact *[PETRA-JNA 13 Oct]* 44
- Paper Condemns Hurd's 'Colonialist' Statements *[AL-RA'Y 15 Oct]* 44
- 60,000 Attend Pro-Palestinian Islamic Rally *[Amman TV]* 45
- Families of Al-Aqsa Victims To Receive Allowance *[PETRA-JNA 14 Oct]* 45

LEBANON

- Defense Ministry Asks for 'Awn's Surrender *[VOL]* 46
  - Government Sets Surrender Terms *[VOL]* 46
  - 'Awn Announces Surrender *[RFL]* 46
  - Deputy Chief of Staff Surrenders *[VOL]* 46
  - Units Join Legitimate Command *[VOL]* 46
  - Resistance Reported *[VOL]* 47
  - French Sources Comment *[AFP]* 47
- B'abda Palace Falls; Army Defense Ministry *[RFL]* 47
- Army Command Addresses Eastern Area Citizens *[Beirut Radio]* 48
- Al-Hirawi Speech Calls for Unity and Stability *[VOL]* 48
  - Thanks Al-Asad for Assistance *[Beirut Radio]* 48
- Al-Huss Addresses Public on 'Historic Moment' *[Beirut Radio]* 49
- Syrian Troops First To Arrive at B'abda Palace *[AFP]* 49
- France Grants Political Asylum to 'Awn *[AFP]* 49
- Cabinet Statement Asserts Government Authority *[VOL]* 49
  - French Source Cites Rizq *[Paris Radio]* 50
- Ja'ja' Demands French Embassy Hand Over 'Awn *[VOL]* 51
- 113 Dead, 720 Wounded in Operation Against 'Awn *[VOL]* 51
- Government Against 'Awn Leaving Country *[RFL]* 51
- Syrian Commander's Comments; Troop Movements *[AFP]* 51
- Al-Huss Government Reportedly Will Resign *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 52
- 'Awn Ministers Taking Refuge in French Embassy *[RFL]* 52
- Dallul on 'Awn's Trial; Dissolution of Militias *[Beirut Radio]* 52
- Lebanese Forces Reportedly Kill Detainees *[VOM]* 52
- Harassment in Al-Matn; Clashes in al-Hadath *[VOL]* 53
- Martyrs' Tombs 'Wrecked'; Rival Groups Clash *[RFL]* 53
- Hizballah, Amal Clash in Sidon; One Killed *[AFP]* 53

SYRIA

- 'Resources' at Disposal of Al-Hirawi Government *[Damascus Radio]* 54
- Radio Cites Reports on Beirut Developments *[Damascus Radio]* 54
- Government To Extend Aid to Lebanese Army *[SANA]* 54
- Minister on Damascus Role in Ending 'Rebellion' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 54
- Al-Shar' Says 'Awn Fall Will Restore Stability *[Damascus Radio]* 54
- Al-Hirawi Briefs Al-Asad on Lebanon Operation *[Damascus Radio]* 54
- Al-Shar' Pledges Continued Assistance to Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 55
- Al-Asad Receives Al-Huss Thanks, Vows Support *[Damascus Radio]* 55
- Commentary Views 'Liberation' of Southern Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 55
- Military Spokesman Details Action in Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 56
- TV Cites AFP on 'Awn Assassination Attempt *[Damascus TV]* 56
- Lebanese Urged To 'Join Hands,' Cooperate *[Damascus Radio]* 56
- Paper Says UN Resolution 'Shook' Israel *[SANA]* 57

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Clashes Continue Between Troops, Rebels in Kabul 58
  - Units Destroy Weapons, Vehicles *[Kabul Radio]* 58
  - Further on Operations *[Kabul Radio]* 58
  - 'Heavy' Fighting Reported *[AFP]* 58

Government Spokesman Comments *[AFP]* 58
Rebel Commanders Meet To Discuss New Strategy 59
Plan Military Coordination *[London International]* 59
To Stage Joint Operations *[AFP]* 59
'Extremist' Group Attacks Herat City Mosque *[Kabul Radio]* 60
Security Ministry Buys Surface-to-Air Missiles *[Kabul Radio]* 60

India

Cut in Supply of Petroleum Products Announced *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Oil Shortage Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Government Levies Surcharge *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Security Forces To Seal Off Disputed Shrine *[AFP]* 61
BJP Leader En Route to Shrine in Ayodhya 61
Arrives in Delhi *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Urges Negotiations on Dispute *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Muslim Leaders Appeal for Communal Harmony *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Sikh Party Leader Resigns From Parliament *[Delhi Radio]* 62

Iran

Velayati, Iraqi Official Discuss Cooperation *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Supreme Security Council Reviews Iraq Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Direct Diplomatic Ties Resumed With Iraq *[IRNA]* 62
Joint Communique Issued *[Tehran TV]* 62
President Discusses Gulf Crisis, U.S. Relations *[Tehran International]* 63
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Arabic Friday Sermon 63
Discusses Current Crisis *[Tehran International]* 63
Gives Second Friday Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Defense Ministry Says Ready To Free Jerusalem *[Tehran Radio]* 67
IRGC To Commemorate Al-Aqsa Martyrs 15 Oct *[Tehran Radio]* 67
'Millions' Reported To Mourn Al-Aqsa Deaths *[IRNA]* 67
Besharati on Need For Struggle Against Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Velayati Discusses 'Awn, Egyptian Relations *[IRNA]* 68
Government May Seek Soviet Aid on Reactors *[IRNA]* 68
Final Voting Results Given for Experts' Elections *[IRNA]* 69
*Khalkhali Views Military Unity With Iraq *[London KEYHAN 27 Sep]* 69
*Food Reportedly Exported Through Western Border *[London KEYHAN 27 Sep]* 69
*State Increasing Crude Oil Production *[London KEYHAN 27 Sep]* 70
*Government Divided Over News From Abroad *[London KEYHAN 27 Sep]* 71

Pakistan

Minister Discusses Nuclear Nonproliferation Stance 71
Wants South Asia Nuclear-Free *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 13 Oct]* 71
Report on Nuclear Furnaces Denied *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
President Meets on Army Role for Election Days *[THE MUSLIM 14 Oct]* 72
Lahore High Court Upholds Dissolution of Assembly *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Jatoi Accuses PPP of Kidnappings in Sindh 73
Bhutto Said Encouraging Acts *[AFP]* 73
Further Accusations Against PPP *[AFP]* 73
Afghan Guerrilla Leader Arrives for First Visit *[AFP]* 74
Steps Planned To Meet Burden Due to Gulf Crisis *[Islamabad Radio]* 74
Bhutto Portrayed as Anti-Islam in Election Ad *[AFP]* 74

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Aziz, Al-Qasim in Rabat for Jerusalem Committee

LD1510022290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] [Announcer] Messrs. Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Morocco this evening. They were welcomed at Rabat Sale Airport by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali.

At the airport lounge; Tariq 'Aziz made the following statement to the press:

[Begin 'Aziz recording] The Jerusalem Committee has met on numerous occasions in the past. Perhaps the occasion of our meeting tomorrow is the most painful of all occasions to the Arab nation—because the meeting is taking place after an abominable premeditated crime against our people in Palestine and our folk in Jerusalem, and against our holy shrines.

This crime is taking place within the framework of a political atmosphere full of deceit and hypocrisy on the part of the international powers, who appear, when the matter serves their aims, to care for international law and the values which they claim should be supreme within the international community. But when injustice, aggression, murder, and destruction fall on the Arabs, then we see them go slowly, prevaricate, and maneuver, not taking the stands and the measures they must take to stop aggression and injustice and the suppression against our people and our folk.

This places on us a greater responsibility as Arabs, and we must say our word clearly: Namely, we do not agree to being treated with two measures and two standards. The one who claims to respect international law and the UN charter should prove this regarding the he crimes committed against the Palestinian Arab people—against occupation, against usurpation, against the annexation and acquisition which has been taking place for decades under the eyes of the international community, the United Nations, the Security Council, and the big powers which dominate this Council.

Only then may the Arabs feel that they are part of this international system and discharge the responsibilities they are required to discharge under this system. But if this treatment remains full of hypocrisy and duplicity against our nation and issues, then we will be required to speak our mind, and move from words to action. [end recording]

For his part, Marwan al-Qasim made a statement to the press, which said in part:

[Begin al-Qasim recording] The truth is that Jordan is very happy to attend tomorrow's meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, which was founded 21 years ago when the first Zionist conspiracy to end the Arab-Islamic presence began in trying to burn down the holy al-Aqsa mosque.

We recall that after that period, during the past two decades, the Arab situation has not improved and Israeli encroachment increases against these rights, whether they be land, holy places, or even Arab existence in the Palestinian Arab land.

We hope we will have a chance to give a true picture of what is happening these days in the occupied Arab areas. I beg to underline that on this occasion Jordan has sent one of its Jordanian specialists on the al-Aqsa mosque and on the continuous attempts throughout the years to establish justification for demolishing the al-Aqsa mosque and building the Solomon Temple.

My colleague, His Excellency Ra'if Najm—a member of the royal Jordanian committee on Jerusalem affairs—might have the chance to explain to my brothers—members of the Islamic delegations taking part in this good meeting—the truth about the suffering and the truth about the conspiring which is taking place at the expense of the Arab land and the Arab holy shrines in occupied Palestine.

Naturally, we are very pleased to be on the soil of fraternal Morocco and under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hasan II, and we always look forward to benefiting from his views and his future outlook for safeguarding the Arab land and holy shrines. Thank you. [end recording]

Further on Arrival, Statements

JN1510080790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Rabat, 15 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that this time the Jerusalem Committee is meeting on the most painful occasion for the Arab nation following the abominable crime commited by the Zionist forces against our people in Palestine and kinfolk in Jerusalem, and against our sanctities.

In a press conference he held at Morocco's Sale Airport last night following his arrival to attend the Jerusalem Committee meetings, 'Aziz said: This crime is taking place within the framework of a political atmosphere full of deceit and hypocrisy on the part of the international powers, which appear, when the matter serves their aims, to care for international law. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz held the United States fully responsible for the Palestinian Arab people's tragedy. He said the statements made by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, and his ilk in the U.S. Administration, over the non-linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question do not surprise us at all.

He explained that the U.S. Government cares for the oil wells in our Arab region, for keeping Israel in control of our lands and sanctities, and for letting our blood run there as rivers. He pointed out that Arab blood does not concern Dan Quayle, or George Bush, and he only cares about the oil and controlling it, and about its price.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the U.S. official's statement is prejudiced, and we must tell him that the Arabs' priorities are different from those of the United States, and that Jerusalem and Arab blood are much more important than oil.

Expected Syrian-Egyptian Gulf 'Initiative' Viewed

NC1310113090 Paris AFP in English 0852 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, Oct 13 (AFP)—Syria and Egypt have agreed to combine their efforts towards reaching an Arab consensus around resolutions on the Gulf crisis taken at the August 10 Arab summit in Cairo, Arab diplomatic sources have said here.

The initiative, which is to begin shortly, is aimed at countries who expressed reservations about, or refused to vote for, resolutions which condemned Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and approved the deployment of foreign forces in Saudi Arabia.

Syrian and Egyptian Foreign Ministers Faruq al-Shar' and Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met here earlier this week.

Damascus and Cairo are seeking to thwart a diplomatic campaign by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to win over the countries which opposed the Cairo resolutions into a front of support for Iraq, the sources said.

Iraq, Libya and the PLO voted against the resolutions, while Algeria, Yemen and Jordan abstained, Sudan and Mauritania expressed reservations, and Tunisia did not attend the summit.

The upcoming Syrian-Egyptian initiative will attempt to explain to the leaders of these countries that "all Arabs are opposed in principle to the foreign military presence in the Gulf and are in agreement on the condemnation of this (Iraqi) invasion," the diplomatic sources said.

"However, a permanent refusal on their part to join the camp hostile to the Iraqi invasion reinforces the obstinacy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and risks increasing the possibility of a war whose consequences would be catastrophic for the entire region," the sources said.

If Syria and Egypt succeed in obtaining a consensus on the Cairo resolution, they will demand a symbolic military participation from these countries, according to the same sources, "to assure Saudi Arabia that all of the Arabs are standing by her and also to deprive the foreigners of the pretext for their presence on Saudi territory."

Syria and Egypt are reportedly ready to unconditionally send the number of troops necessary to replace the Western troops currently deployed in the Arabian peninsula.

Damascus in particular has insisted on the replacement of Western forces by Arab troops, the sources said.

Saudi officials have said that only 1,100 Syrian soldiers were present on their territory, but Arab diplomatic sources have said that some 4,000 were deployed in Saudi Arabia along with another 800 in the United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, in Rabat, King Hassan II called on Mr. Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait so as to spare the Arab nation from the "destructive effects" of a war.

Speaking before the opening session of the Moroccan parliament, King Hassan said that an Iraqi withdrawal was a necessary precondition to the appointment of a commission to settle the disagreements between Baghdad and the exiled Kuwaiti leadership.

League Official Reacts to Events in Lebanon

LD1410021490 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Lakhdar al-Ibrahimi, "Arab League Secretary-General responsible for the Lebanese file," by reporter Farida Bekkouche on 13 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Ibrahimi] [passage omitted] We have two objectives: to resume talks to set up a development fund for Lebanon, and to help the reunited Lebanese Army dress its wounds, consolidate its unity, and provide itself with the means to ensure it is respected throughout the country.

[Bekkouche] Yes, but what will now be the very next stage on the ground in Lebanon? In other words, with the presence of the parties and the militias?

[Al-Ibrahimi] It is the perparation or the implementation of the measures necessary to disarm the militias. It is a delicate task, and let us wish that our Lebanese brothers can carry it through successfully. I believe also that all the consultations are going to begin at once for the expansion of the cabinet of Dr. Salim al-Huss, because it was a restricted government as a result of the prevailing situation.

Finally, in the statement made by the Lebanese Government in July, launching a call for the reunification of the army and calling on all the officers to rejoin the army, there was also another file, if you will, which was the need to end the situation prevailing in the district of Ettufah, in the Sidon region.

[Bekkouche] Yes, but is not disarming the militias a broad subject? Are all the Lebanese in agreement on a question which traditionally arouses strong feelings? Are there reactions from parties or Lebanese movements today; are they going to accept the disarmament of the militia willingly? The operation does not seem so simple.

[Al-Ibrahimi] This operation is going to be carried out over a period of six months from the date of the implementation of the reforms, the main reforms. This was done some time ago; thus, this is the time we have left. You know, it is indeed extremely delicate. There is already a position from by Amal Chairman Nabih Birri who says that he is quite prepared to act in accordance with this point of the al-Ta'if agreement. I am told also that the Christian militias are in the same frame of mind, and I believe that Walid Junblatt will not pose any problems either.

[Bekkouche] And on the Hizballah side?

[Al-Ibrahimi] On the Hizballah side, I suppose that, when we are going to start concerning ourselves with the question of the Ettufah district, we are of necessity going to end up talking about the question of the Hizballah, and there have also been quite encouraging statements by certain officials, certain well-known figures close to Hizballah. [passage omitted]

League Council Emergency Session Planned 17 Oct

LD1210182590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] It has been learned from an informed source at the General Secretariat of the Arab League that the League's [Ministerial] Council will hold an emergency session in Tunis on Wednesday, 17 October. This session is being held at the request of the state of Palestine to discuss the serious situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly following the massacre perpetrated by the Israeli occupation troops in al-Aqsa Mosque. It is worth mentioning that this session was to be held tomorrow.

Iraq Said Seeking Yemen Help To Hush Report

PM1110092490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab: "Secret of 'Aziz Visit to Sanaa"]

[Text] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—High-ranking political sources in Sanaa have said that Iraq has asked President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to try to persuade the Djibouti Government not to announce the results of the investigations that it is conducting into the incident in which grenades were thrown at a cafe frequented by French soldiers last week.

The sources said that the Iraqi request was conveyed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz during his visit to Sanaa last week.

The sources added that Tariq 'Aziz's mission in Sanaa was primarily confined to this purpose. They said the Iraqi foreign minister informed President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Iraq's readiness to pay a large sum of money to the Djibouti authorities in return for their not announcing the names of the criminals and those behind them.

The sources said that Iraq asked Sanaa to do all it can to achieve this aim, and that Baghdad is relying heavily on Yemen's role.

The sources expected Sanaa to send a special envoy to Djibouti to present the Iraqi offer, which will be provided in the form of aid worth several million dollars.

Islamic Affairs

Islamists Call for Strong UN Response to 'Crime'

JN1010153990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—Dr. 'Irfan 'Abd-al-Hamid, secretary-general of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization [PICO], has condemned the heinous crime perpetrated by the Zionist occupation authorities at the Jerusalem holy mosque against the Palestinian Arab people the day before yesterday and described it as a crime that shames humanity.

In a statement to INA, he said: The Zionists' perpetration of this horrendous crime is a glaring violation against all religions. It is also a flagrant violation of international values, norms, and the human rights provisions enshrined in the UN Charter.

The PICO secretary-general asked: Where is the international legitimacy the United States brags about? Where is this legitimacy, in whose name the United States has used all of its resources and pressures to force the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the United Nations to impose an unjust economic blockade on the proud Iraqi people, who have done nothing other than lead the ranks under the leadership of His Excellency President mujahid leader Saddam Husayn standing firmly against all forms of U.S. and Western expansion and threats against the Arab and Islamic nation?

Dr. 'Irfan 'Abd-al-Hamid added: The United Nations and the UNSC are urged now more than ever before to take a strong and serious stand against the Zionist policies of repression and terrorism against the Palestinian Arab people. Otherwise, international organizations and the UNSC will be viewed as obedient tools manipulated by the United States through its unholy alliance with the corrupt Zionist entity.

Concluding his statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid urged well-intentioned and honorable people all over the world to support the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories in their defense of the holy Islamic shrines against the repeated Zionist aggressions. Furthermore, he urged them to expose the treacherous imperialist-Zionist policies against the Arab nation led by steadfast Iraq, which has taken it upon itself to conduct a just and legitimate confrontation of the U.S.-Atlantic onslaught that seeks to undermine the Muslims' shrines and sanctities in the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to UN Resolution on Al-Aqsa Incident

'Abd-Rabbuh Says 'Inadequate'

JN1310214890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1935 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has described the UN Security Council resolution passed early this morning as inadequate and said it is not commensurate with Israel's open defiance of the international community by committing last Monday's [8 October] al-Aqsa Mosque massacre. He said the United States and President George Bush had brought pressure to bear on European and Nonaligned nations on the Security Council to change their stance on the formation of an inquiry commission to be named by the Security Council.

Discussed by Fatah Committee

JN1410130090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 14 Oct (INA)—The Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, met here last night under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the latest developments in the situation in the occupied Arab territories against the background of the the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution on the Jerusalem massacre.

An INA reporter in Tunis quoted an informed Palestinian source as saying that the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement discussed ways to support the popular intifadah in the occupied Arab territories and confront the Zionist massacres to which the Palestinian people are being exposed at the hands of the Zionist occupation troops.

The source added that the Central Committee members also reviewed in their meeting, which was held after the conclusion of the PLO Central Council meetings, means of finding an Arab solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis.

Editor Calls It U.S. 'Scandal'

JN1410085490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Commentary by political editor's entitled: "The Ugly Resolution and the Blatant U.S. Plot"]

[Text] Once again the UN Security Council proves its lack of credibility and its submission to the wishes of the U.S. Administration which does not want any serious treatment of the Palestinian question—an international treatment that would put a stop to the crimes of the Zionist occupiers and ensure the necessary international protection of the unarmed Palestinian people under the yoke of occupation.

This time, under the British chairmanship of the Security Council, and given the fact that British policy is toeing the line of hostile U.S. policies against the Arab people and nation, the UN Security Council transcended the point of indulging in double standards, stalling, and procrastination, and participated in the U.S. political plot. This plot was aimed at saving the Israeli killer, extricating him from his dilemma, and allowing him to emerge from the racist, terrorist massacre safe and sound.

Through U.S. pressure, the Security Council adopted a series of unjust resolutions, legalized a blockade, and used force against fraternal Iraq in an unprecedentedly short period of seven days. Because of the U.S. stand also, this Council hesitated for four days, unable to pass a clear resolution against the Zionist massacre and in favor of providing international protection for the Palestinian people. Over a period of three days, a scandal was witnessed which was bigger than Watergate, the arms-to-Contras, the intervention in Grenada, and the Panama invasion. It was the scandal of scandals for the U.S. Administration, which mobilized all of its political clout in the Security Council to adopt a consensus on the need to face the so-called Gulf crisis. After succeeding in obtaining that consensus, the United States found itself in a diametrically opposite position, seeking to break the consensus and divide it to ensure that an appropriate resolution is not adopted, a resolution that shows respect for itself and for its writers, a practical resolution that condemns organized Zionist terror and puts a stop to it by ensuring the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation.

In fact the question is not connected with American political double standards, forcing the Security Council to use two yardsticks, or with voicing relief over this dirty operation. The question, rather, is connected with U.S. contempt of the world conscience and of world nations, independence and sovereign decisions, even if these nations are U.S. friends and allies. This not only embarrasses them, but makes them feel humiliated.

In view of this U.S. position, which endeavored to prevent any effective Security Council resolution in favor of the simplest Palestinian right of providing international protection to face the occupation army, which is armed to the teeth, and the bloodthirsty and racist settlers; in view of this exposed U.S. position, we say that we will not stop our resistance against occupation but will increase our daily struggle and escalate our political steadfastness and our efforts to expose the U.S. stand which harmed us, sanctioned the shedding of our blood, and protected the racist killers. As for the Security Council, we will simply continue to express our deep regret to it as long as it remains under the U.S. cloak. However, we hope that the Council will come out from under this humiliating cloak and reject this ignominious submission to U.S. policies and plans, which, as we said, not only embarrass but bring humiliation to U.S. allies and friends before anybody else. Palestinian blood will not be shed in vain. Jerusalem will be protected by its people. God is great. We will triumph.

PLO Council Issues Statement on Regional Events

JN1410185590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 14 Oct 90

["Statement" issued by the PLO Central Council in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

During the period of 10-12 October 1990, corresponding to 21 to 23 Rabi' Awwal 1411 Hegira, the Central Council held in the capital of the fraternal Tunisian Republic its ordinary session under the chairmanship of His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], in the presence of brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

At the outset of its meeting, the Council read the al-Fatihah [the first verse in the Koran] for the rest of the martyrs of our people and their blessed intifadah and the martyrs of the holy mosque in Jerusalem, who were shot by Israeli occupation forces and gangs of Zionist settlers while defending with their flesh the shrine which was the first place toward which worshippers prayed, and the second holiest mosque.

The Council expressed appreciation for the courageous stand pursued by the struggling masses in Jerusalem and all over our occupied homeland in the face of the conspiracy of desecration of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the attack on the sanctities of Arabs and Muslims. The Council asserted that this valiant steadfastness, which is supported and backed by all honorable and free men, will thwart the plans of the rulers of Israel which aim at destroying sanctities and changing and Judaizing the features of Holy Jerusalem.

In its statement, which was devoted to this central issue, the Council called for adopting all political and practical measures to support the struggle of our people in Jerusalem and in all parts of the occupied homeland. It also called for internationally condemning the crime of the rulers of Israel. The Council, moreover, emphasized the demand that our occupied land be placed under international protection. It also called for exposing and laying bare the positions of the United States, which connived with the crimes of the rulers of Israel, and which is deactivating the UN Security Council's role in applying the provisions and resolutions of international legitimacy to the Palestine question and Holy Jerusalem. The Council said that the United States is applying increasing pressures on various parties to affect the course of resolutions in the service of Israel, its crimes, and occupation.

The Council also heard the important and comprehensive political report submitted by brother President Yasir 'Arafat on the activity of the PLO Executive Committee and the role it has played on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, especially its efforts to contain the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework and find a political, peaceful solution to it, away from the drums of war and the disaster of war which leaves nothing behind. The report also highlights the PLO Executive Committee's efficient contribution to defending Palestinian and Arab interests, especially in light of regional and international circumstances which have brought about wide-ranging, complicated changes.

In the light of its discussions, the Central Council has concluded the following:

The Council expressed great pride in the steadfastness and continuation of our people's blessed intifadah, which is approaching the end of its third year despite the waves of Zionist oppression and terrorism, especially under the new Shamir government. The Council reaffirmed the need to make available all the requirements of national steadfastness and political and material support to resist all manifestations of siege and strangulation to which the valiant intifadah is being subjected. It also affirmed the need to adopt all ways and means to eliminate all obstacles standing in the intifadah's way, including the decisions on the financial siege, which is imposed by some countries on the PLO and on the blessed intifadah according to a programmed, preplanned policy. The Council hailed our masses in the Triangle, Galilee, the Coast [of Palestine] and Negev for their stalwart position and steadfastness. The Council laid emphasis on the need to consolidate the role of the Unified National Leadership [of the Intifadah] and that of the popular and competent committees, and to deepen the popular character of the intifadah and cement national unity among the various national forces and factions and movements and figures. The Council also stressed the importance of upgrading the level of support and backing on the part of the masses of our people outside the homeland and the brothers in the Arab homeland and friendly forces which support our people's cause and struggle worldwide. In this regard, the Council underscored the importance of activating the role of the Arab front which supports the intifadah as an expression of the national and pan-Arab commitment toward the struggle of our Palestinian people.

The Council also called for intensifying political efforts to expose the dimensions and dangers of the U.S.-Israeli scheme, which aims at diverting attention from the cause of our Palestinian people as the focal point of the conflict in the region. It also called for countering this scheme through serious cooperation endeavors with all fraternal and friendly forces so as to activate efforts to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East, and so that the Security Council will assume its effective role in this regard, in isolation from the pressures of the U.S. Administration and its blatant bias toward Israel, in compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy—which Israel has refused to implement or adopt—and in harmony with the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions unanimously adopted by the Arabs.

The Council stressed the need to continue work to stop the Zionist immigration of Jews from their homelands in the USSR, the Eastern European states, and other states to the heart of the Arab homeland in Palestine through the support of the United States and other international parties. The Council stressed that this immigration constitutes a violation of international legitimacy, the UN Charter, and the International Declaration of Human Rights, especially since it is an encroachment on our people's rights and their national soil and the entire Arab nation. The Council called on all world states to play their role in putting an end to this immense danger that portends the eruption of wars and bloody, long-term conflicts, especially since the objective of this immigration is to establish Greater Israel on Arab land.

The Council expressed appreciation for the stands and the distinguished role taken by the PLO leadership and its chairman, brother Yasir 'Arafat, since the beginning of the crisis in the Gulf for the sake of securing an Arab solution, ending the American and foreign intervention, and averting a catastrophic war against the entire Arab nation, world peace, the international economy, and all parties' interests. The Council stressed that a balanced and linked solution to all regional issues and crises in accordance with international legitimacy is the only way to secure stability and security in the region and the world. The Council stressed that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole. Accordingly, a peaceful political solution to the Gulf crisis must be pursued simultaneously with promoting a settlement to the Middle East crisis and its crux, the Palestine question, in addition to Lebanon and the Golan Heights, along the lines of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, beginning with the holding of an international conference for peace to be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and attended by the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people.

The Council expressed appreciation for the growing international understanding of the Palestinian stand and of the importance of securing a simultaneous and linked solution to all the region's crises. In this regard, the Council expressed positive appreciation for French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative and fraternal Iraq's response to it; the Soviet and the PRC stands; the EC resolutions; the European-Soviet statement; and other international stands that are in harmony with this approach.

The Council reiterated our people's support for fraternal Iraq against the threats of the U.S. invasion and aggression and the blockade imposed on the valiant Iraqi people. The Council said that this anti-Iraqi American campaign is directed against the entire Arab nation, especially since it is aimed at subjugating the region, plundering its wealth, and controlling the destinies of its countries. The Council stressed that these plans actually began a long time before the events in the Gulf and are also aimed at liquidating our national and pan-Arab rights, foremost of which are the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and national independence.

The Council urged persistent action by the Arab states in the interest of an Arab-based solution to the Gulf crisis, and that the cover be withdrawn from the U.S. military presence in the region and on Arab land in order to ensure pan-Arab security, the Arab nation's future, and the interests of our greater Arab homeland.

The Council expressed its support for fraternal Jordan and appreciation for the country's nationalist, courageous, and pan-Arab posture, and its steadfastness in the face of numerous threats and pressures. The Council condemned the systematic, malicious, and insidious media and political effort by certain media organizations against our Palestinian people and their leadership. These rabid campaigns serve the objective of the American-Israeli scheme against our cause and our Arab nation and seek to undermine our people's victories, jihad, and the blessed intifadah.

The Council denounced the gratuitous deportations and expulsions of the sons of our people from some Gulf states, and called for halting this out of concern for ties of brotherhood among our Arab peoples and to thwart the forces that want to turn the Arabs against each other.

At the conclusion of its meetings, the Council stressed that circumstances now necessitate preparations for holding a new session of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. It decided to entrust the PLO Executivce Committee, the PNC chairmanship, and the PNC leaderships with planning this session.

The Council applauded the unity of fraternal Yemen, hoping that this blessed step will mark the beginning of a comprehensive Arab unity, having the confidence that the one united Yemen will continue to be a basic support for our Palestinian people's struggle and our Arab nation.

The Council expressed gratitude to fraternal Tunisia, its people, and its president His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for hosting the PLO Council and for Tuninia's sacrifices and support for our people's cause and their intifadah in all fields.

Glory and immortality to our people's righteous martyrs, and victory for our revolution and blessed intifadah. It is a revolution until victory!

[Signed] The PLO Central Council

Yasir 'Arafat Interviewed by Iranian Paper

LD1510112190 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15 IRNA—Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization believes that peace between Iran and Iraq, coupled with the intifadah, will bear fresh fruits in a joint struggle against imperialism. Interviewed by a reporter of Tehran's afternoon daily ETTELA'AT in Tunis recently which was published in Sunday's [14 October] issues of the paper, 'Arafat also said that he had proposed a Palestinian peace initiative for the current Persian Gulf crisis which had received the backing of a number of Arab states.

The objective of the plan, 'Arafat added, is to resolve the issue of Kuwait within the context of an Arab formula "far from any foreign intervention". The plan underlines settlement of all the Middle East problems, either in the Persian Gulf, Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon or the Golan Heights, he said.

According to the plan, the process has already started with the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iran and could spread to other areas including Kuwait, 'Arafat claimed. The sheikhdom is under Iraqi occupation since August 2 when it was invaded by Saddam Husayn's forces which triggered a new crisis in the Persian Gulf after the eight year old war with Iran.

In the PLO leader's point of view, military presence of the West in the region is not to "defend regional regimes but to safeguard imperalist and American interests in the oil-rich Middle East and (Persian) Gulf regions". This, he added, "would not only be dangerous for the Arab and Muslim ummah, but for all deprived and third world countries as well."

As for the Palestinian uprising, 'Arafat said the intifada will continue until the time an end is put to the Zionist occupation and the beloved al-Quds is liberated. "These military operations will be continued and never stop...I do not fight merely for the sake of fighting but rather for the implementation of a political program," he noted.

It was for this same reason that "I attended the United Nations in 1974 with a specific political program...holding a gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other." But, he stressed, "the olive branch has died away and the gun has been attacked by Israeli mercenaries in the Arab territory. Nothing has been left before the Palestinian gun except for southern Lebanon where the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies are still holding their guns."

As for Iran-Palestine relations and the outcome of a recent visit to Tehran of a Palestinian delegation, the PLO chairman said the visit had good results, adding that another delegation was scheduled to visit Iran. But he stressed "irrespective of the result of the delegation's visit...we have exerted utmost efforts and will continue to do so, in order to strengthen relations between Palestinian revolution and Iranian brethren once again."

'Arafat asked the reporter to underline the phrase 'once again', expressing satisfaction at the fact that such ties had not been broken "even during the past hard times". "Together and along with each other, until the time to liberate the beloved al-Quds, God willing, to hold a prayer there, and materialize aspiration of the imam (Khomeyni)," 'Arafat said in a brief message to the Iranian Muslims. The ideal of the late great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, was the uprising of all Hizballah and popular forces throughout the world for the liberation of al-Quds, ETTELA'AT added in conclusion.

Algeria

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives, Comments on Visit

JN1410184590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, 14 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, arrived here from Tunis this evening as part of his tour of the Arab Maghreb countries.

He was received at the Houari Boumedienne Airport by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali, a number of Algerian officials, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Algiers.

In a statement to INA's reporter in Algiers, Ramadan said he is bringing a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, dealing with the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them.

Ramadan pointed out that during his visit to Algiers he would discuss developments in the Arabian Gulf as well as the dangers posed to pan-Arab security and the Arab nation by the presence of U.S. and NATO forces in the region.

Ramadan added that the Algerian position on events in the Arabian Gulf reflects the Algerian people's genuine militant history, and praised the level of the brotherly relations between the two countries.

Meets Hamrouche, Discusses Ties

JN1510102690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers—Taha Yasin Ramadan, [Iraq's] Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met last night with Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche

During the meeting, which was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali, they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and the serious threats against Arab security resulting from the foreign military presence in the region.

During the meeting, the first deputy prime minister stressed that Iraq's willpower and steadfastness will foil the imperialist circles' conspiracies aimed at encroaching on Iraq's resolve. He pointed out that Iraq was subjected to an oil embargo when it nationalized its oil. However, he said, it managed with this willpower and resolve to break and foil that embargo.

The first deputy prime minister reviewed the highly efficient economic measures taken by the leadership to secure the fair distribution of basic foodstuffs to all citizens, including Arabs and foreigners, to face the imposed economic embargo.

Views UK Statement on Force

LD1510135890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, who has been visting Algeria since yesterday evening, was received today by President Chadli Bendjedid and conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn.

Following the meeting Taha Yasin Ramadan made a statement to the press in which he said:

[Begin recording] [Ramadan] We are happy at having the opportunity to visit our second country, Algeria, and to convey to the Algerian president the appreciation of the Iraqi people and their leadership at the stance taken by the great Algerian people toward the imperialist Zionist assault against Iraq. Every day we see Algeria from Baghdad and how it is dealing with the situation, reminding us that our history is the same and so are the roots of the free revolutionaries, despite the distances.

We are happy to meet with the Algerian president. Our meeting took place within the framework of consultation and the exchange of views concerning developments in the region and what Algerian diplomacy can do together with other friends and countries to widen the scope for a peaceful solution at the present stage and to avert the specter of war. At the same time, we have assured President Chadli Bendjedid that the Iraqi people, the Iraqi Armed Forces, and the Iraqi women are preparing every day and at every moment to defend their existence, should war be imposed on them.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Britain said yesterday evening that it will use force against Iraq if Iraq persists in its refusal to leave Kuwait. What is your response to this?

[Ramadan] This is what Britain says. We cannot expect any other statement from Britain. This is because Kuwait was a protege of Britain. Britain, before any other country in the world, knows how Kuwait was created and how they severed it [from Iraq], and what the aim was behind this severance. Britain has pushed the shaykhs of Kuwait to plot against great Iraq to dispel the last ray of hope for the Arab region to stand against Israel, which they have decided should be the dominant country in the Arab region. [end recording]

Taha Yasin Ramadan is on a tour of a number of Arab countries. Prior to his visit to Algeria he visited Tunisia and Libya.

Meanwhile Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is visiting Morocco to participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee. Tariq 'Aziz said yesterday that the United States cares about oil and not about the Arab blood shed in occupied Jerusalem and the occupied territories. As long as the Palestine question remains unsolved there can be no settlement of the Gulf crisis without a comprehensive solution to all the issues in the Middle East, according to the Iraqis.

Iraqi Information Minister Nusayyif Jasim, for his part, has reaffirmed that there will be no withdrawal from Kuwait and that Kuwait is Iraqi and will remain so forever.

This assertion to the effect that Kuwait is Iraqi and will remain so forever was stated by the Iraqi information minister in response to statements by the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI saying that President Saddam Husayn is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait provided that he can keep the al-Rumaylah oil region which borders the Gulf on the islands of Warbah and Butiyan.

Furthermore, Iraq has declared its readiness to fight a long war for the sake of keeping Kuwait. The only solution to the Gulf crisis, in the eyes of Iraq, lies in a comprehensive solution of the Middle East issues, foremost of which are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese question.

'Serious' Disturbances Reported in Town of Kais

LD1310143890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Since this morning the town of Kais in Khenchela has been witnessing acts of violence perpetrated by youths supported by traders, who have closed down all the shops in the town. We have received this dipatch from our reporter on location. We apologize in advance for this bad telephone line.

[Reporter] The disrupting of traffic for a number of weeks in some central roads in Khenchela municipality was a sign that something was going to happen. The traffic disruption protest took a more serious turn this morning at Kais town municipality. This usually calm town, approximately 20 km west of Khenchela, woke up to thousands of youths' taking to the town streets. The town has been blocked from all corners. All roads leading to Batna in the west, Khenchela in the east, and Oum Baouaqi in the north have been closed.

Residents of Kais have responded to the call of the youths as all shops, schools, and social facilities have closed down. The protestors agreed to assemble before the municipality when the municipality president opened a dialogue with the youth representatives and representative of the People's National Assembly.

Those gathering outside the municipality were expecting an answer from the municipality official, but all this was in vain; a matter that led a number of youths to set fire to the municipality offices. This administrative facility turned into mere ashes within minutes. The fire brigade tried to intervene but was prevented from doing so by the demonstrators.

In this crucial atmosphere in Kais, we noted the total absence of security forces. As I have mentioned before, the situation is very serious, which made it difficult for us to contact the appropriate authorities in this municipality.

The causes of these protests according to interviews with a number of young people from this town can be summarized as follows:

1. To provide jobs for the unemployed.
2. To take property away from nonserious owners and distribute it among the needy, particularly appartments at 544 Avenue [word indistinct].
3. To demand the secession of Kais town from Khenchela municipality, to become part of Batna municipality.
4. To demand the dismissal of the municipality president, his secretary-general, and also the province's secretary of the youth union.
5. To provide a bus for Kais schoolchildren.

We will give you all the details on the situation in this municipality—this situation that has intensified significantly—in our future news bulletins.

Incidents in Tebessa, Oued Barda, Constantine

LD1410232190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The town of Tebessa was today the scene of violent demonstrations staged by unemployed youths who were demanding the dissolution of the Youth Development Society, which they are accusing of showing a lack of integrity and of failing to give sound guidance to young people. The demonstrators threw stones inside the building of the provincial government, thus breaking the glass windows. They also ransacked a police station situated at the entrance of the provincial government building. The police intervened by using tear-gas grenades to disperse the demonstrators. Later, the governor received a group of youths to talk to them and examine the problems raised. He also asked them to suggest solutions.

In the province of Annaba, the governor this afternoon received a delegation of citizens who had barricaded the doors of the provincial government building this morning in the presence of elected members of the municipal and provincial people's assemblies. The delegation voiced the preoccupations of the citizens, which are all linked to the housing problem. The governor then explained the measures which will henceforth regulate the allocation of housing. He also presented further details on the means available to meet the requirements of the housing sector. Afterward, everybody dispersed in absolute calm.

In the municipality of Oued Barda, in the administrative district of Ain Bessem, in the province of Bouira, dozens of unemployed youths this morning blocked for five hours the road linking the municipality with the provincial road and passing through the industrial zone of Sidi Khaled. The youths were demanding jobs and denounced the methods of recruitment at the NEFTAL complex which specializes in filling butane gas bottles.

The head of the administrative district of Ain Bessem then discussed with the youths the various problems raised and examined with them the possible solutions and suitable suggestions. Afterward, traffic on the road returned to normal. [passage omitted]

In the streets of Constantine, hundreds of citizens demonstrated to demand a reduction in the exorbitant prices of fruits and vegetables which constitute a burden on the citizen and prevent him from satisfying his daily food needs. The demonstrators marched through the streets of Constantine chanting the slogan: Enough is enough. The price of vegetables is too high.

Egypt

Developments Relating to Al-Mahjub Assassination

Butrus Ghali Comments

NC1410172690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Paris, 14 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has declined to speculate on the identity of the party responsible for the heinous assault which led to the death of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. He noted that it is difficult to answer this question because no party has claimed responsibility for the incident and we must wait for the result of the investigation.

In a telephone interview from New York by the weekly LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE conducted last Friday [8 October] hours after the attack on Dr. al-Mahjub and published today, Dr. Ghali said: If we want to link this attack and the events in the Gulf, then we must turn our attention to terrorism and the fanatic fundamentalist elements in Egypt.

Commenting on reports that the perpetrators were organized and acted professionally, methodically, and calmly, Dr. Ghali said that this description fits all local terrorists who receive assistance and equipment from international terrorist organizations. He noted that the same thing happens in Ireland and Spain's Basque province.

Asked if events in Jerusalem, Beirut, and Cairo might lead to a state of general instability in the Middle East, thus benefiting Saddam Husayn, Dr. Ghali said that the Israelis, by their actions in Jerusalem, have certainly given a gift to Saddam Husayn and that what happened there is bound to delay implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. He said the attack on the People's Assembly speaker cannot provoke instability in Egypt because there is true consensus in the country, and President Husni Mubarak's policy enjoys complete support. He explained that the behavior of some marginal groups changes nothing.

Regarding the settlement of all Middle East conflicts, Dr. Butrus Ghali said there must be no link between the issues of Kuwait and the occupied territories, because that is bound to confuse matters.

He said: We insistently demand, just as the United Nations does, immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He noted that this issue has priority and added: After the withdrawal takes place, we must then without delay devote our efforts to the Palestinian issue. However, we must not entangle the issues because that will strengthen Saddam Husayn's position.

Islamic Group Claims Responsibility

NC1410160090 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, October 14 (AFP)—An unknown Islamic group claimed responsibility on Sunday [14 October] for the killing in Cairo of Egyptian parliamentary speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub and warned "Americanized Arabs" they would face the same fate unless they rejoined the Arab fold.

An anonymous caller saying he represented the World Islamic Front for Liberation [al-Jabhah al-'Alamiyah al-Islamiyah lil tahrir] told Agence France-Presse that the group's "Al-Aqsa martyrs executed al-Mahjub for his treacherous complicity with American intelligence services and his cover-up of Israel's arbitrary measures in the occupied territories.

"We warn all Americanized-Arabs that unless they join the fold defending Arab rights and interests, they will eventually bear responsibility for their anti-Arab stances," the caller said.

The spokesman said the front was established in 1989.

"A group of Islamic fighters has banded together to defend the Islamic nation and fight American, Israeli and Soviet interests worldwide," he added.

Mr. al-Mahjub was gunned down in central Cairo on Friday [12 October]. Egyptian police announced Saturday they had arrested an unspecified number of foreigners in connection with the killing.

The suspects were seized as they tried to leave Egypt with fake passports, according to police sources.

Muslim Leaders Deny Knowing Group

JN1410182790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Excerpt] High-ranking Muslim fundamentalist leaders in Egypt have said they have no knowledge of or link with the so-called the World Islamic Front for Liberation [WIFL], which claimed from Jordan its responsibility for the assassination of al-Mahjub. In a special telephone conversation with our radio, these leaders said they are not adversaries of al-Mahjub, and they accused the Mosad directly of carrying out the operation. [passage omitted]

Death Toll Rises to Four

NC1210210890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—The number of victims from the attack on Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, People's Assembly speaker, rose to four with the death tonight of Brigadier General 'Adil Salim, deputy chief of Cairo's investigation department, at the police hospital in al-'Ajuzah from injuries he sustained.

The general and another officer had intercepted the culprits and exchanged fire with them. Both officers received direct hits and were taken to the hospital in al-'Ajuzah for treatment.

The funeral of Brig. Gen. 'Adil Salim and Lieutenent Colonel 'Amr Sa'd al-Shirbini, the bodyguard of Dr. al-Mahjub, will take place tomorrow afternoon at the 'Umar Makram mosque. Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and senior police officers will participate.

Driver Dies; Death Toll at Six

NC1310113290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—The personal driver of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub has died of the wounds he received yesterday.

Driver Shihatah Muhammad Ahmad died in al-Munirah Hospital, where he was taken yesterday after he was hit by the culprits who assassinated al-Mahjub.

The driver, about 62 years old, was hit by bullets in the arm, back, and stomach, which caused blood clots. Thus, the number of victims in al-Mahjub's assassination rises to six.

Mubarak Participates in Funeral

NC1310130590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—In a solemn atmosphere at noon today, President Husni Mubarak participated in the military funeral held for the late Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, former People's Assembly speaker, and the four martyred police members, who were killed in the sinful assassination yesterday. The funeral procession took off from Rabi'ah al-'Adawiyah Mosque in Nasr City.

The four martyrs are Brigadier General 'Adil Salim, Lieutenant Colonel 'Amr Sa'd al-Shirbini, Kamal Ahmad 'Abd-al-Muttalib, and 'Abd-al-'Al 'Ali Ramadan.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the prime minister's deputies, cabinet ministers, senior government officials, commanders of the main armed forces branches, police commanders, and Arab and foreign ambassadors also participated in the funeral procession.

Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the Republic, led the prayers at 1200 today. [passage omitted]

'External Group' Implicated

NC1310183890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Security men today arrested a number of suspects attempting to flee the country with forged passports. They are being interrogated to determine if they have any connection with the assassination of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and four of his guards.

Sketches of five people suspected of having committed the heinous incident have been distributed by security agencies at all land exits, ports, and airports with orders to arrest them. The police sketches, drawn at the state security investigation department, accurately portray the features of the culprits according to the information and descriptions given by eyewitnesses.

MENA has learned that the security reports received by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa on the incident confirm that the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub was an operation with a distinctive character carried out by an external group [majmu'ah kharijiyah] that has been well trained in such terrorist operations.

Security reports ruled out the possibility that the incident was the work of one of the extremist groups in Egypt, considering the method followed in carrying out the operation, the speed with which the crime was committed, the professional use of automatic rifles by the culprits, and the use of explosive charges as a second line of defense and backup for the operation should it come under sudden attack by guards or secret policemen who might have happened to be in the neighborhood.

Some security sources also emphasized that the attack and escape plan carried out by the culprits reveal their advanced training in terrorist operations, also shown by the way they fled from the scene of the crime after the attack, moving in the wrong direction on a one-way street, and on motorocycles to ensure their swift movement and to foil any attempt by security men to follow them.

Security men are currently conducting an intensive search for a Mazda 929 taxi used by one of the assassins. Brigadier General 'Adil Salim, deputy director of the Cairo Department of Investigation, who happened to pass by the scene of the incident under the 6 October flyover, followed the taxi in his car and forced it to stop. Not knowing that the criminal was carrying a weapon, he tried to pull him out of the car, but the criminal pulled an automatic rifle and fired several shots at him, scoring direct hits. He then fled and Brig. Gen. Salim died yesterday at the Police Hospital. [passage omitted]

Further on Investigation

NC1410214990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Security organs are continuing their efforts to resolve the ambiguity surrounding the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, former People's Assembly speaker, and five security men, and to identify the terrorists who carried out this criminal attack. [passage omitted]

The security organs have reached the conclusion that the culprits are not Egyptian. The culprits intended to undermine security and stability in Egypt, particularly following Egypt's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The information given by terrorists who were detained before the incident revealed that they had come to Egypt to carry out terrorist actions against important figures and installations.

Security sources think that the terrorists may have entered the country separately through various entry points to avoid suspicion. The sources also think that they may have entered with forged documents, then rented and lived in furnished apartments with other forged documents.

The security organs are continuing their intensive investigations to discover the culprits' identity and determine how they obtained the weapons and explosives which were found at the scene of the incident. [passage omitted]

Suspects Detained at Airport, Ports

NC1410195890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Security authorities at Cairo international airport banned three passengers from leaving on suspicion of being involved in the assassination of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub on friday.

Security authorities at Nuwaybi' Port also arrested several travelers heading for al-'Aqabah, while security authorities at the Port of Suez arrested two Sri Lankans who tried to leave the port with forged passports.

Security officials are interrogating all those arrested and suspected of being involved in the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub.

Cairo airport police banned three passengers from leaving. They are Muhammad al-Sab'awi, an Australian of Palestinian origin who was leaving for Jakarta en route to Sydney. The police also banned passenger Zaki Tawfiq, an American of Egyptian origin who was traveling to New York, and Syrian passenger Sa'id Sabir who was stopped during the search of passengers traveling to Lagos. The airport security organs began interrogating them to discover if they have any link with the assassination.

Those arrested in Nuwaybi' Port, who were traveling to the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah, were suspected of being involved because they resembled some of the photos that the security organs distributed yesterday to all the country's exits.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, a responsible source in the port's security organ said that security measures have been tightened in all ports following Dr. al-Mahjub's assassination. He added that the police force and guards in all ports have been increased to prevent any terrorist from escaping through these exit points. The ports involved are Suez, Nuwaybi', Tabah, Sharm al-Shaykh, Ra's Nusrani, Rafah, al-Naqab, and al-Tur. The source also said that security measures at all other exits have also been tightened.

The source went on to say that investigations have shown that one of the two passengers arrested at Cairo airport earlier today was an Iraqi and the other a Syrian. The airport security men arrested them while they were checking in. They are being interrogated now to discover their connection with the incident.

It is recalled that security organs have widened their circle of suspects in arresting the assassins of Dr. al-Mahjub and five security men. Thus, security officials at all sea, land, and air exit points are carefully eamining all those leaving in their search for the perpetrators.

Five Nationals Investigated

JN1010082490 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Security services are investigating five Egyptians suspected of unwittingly facilitating the residence of some Iraqi and Palestinian terrorists who were arrested recently in a furnished apartment.

An official at the Ports Security Department emphasized that surveillance at seaports of returnees from Kuwait and Iraq has been tightened so as to spot any infiltrators recruited by Iraq and traveling on forged documents.

He said passenger passports are checked on their entrance to the vessel. Also the arrival stamp at the port of entry is checked when passengers disembark. The passports are doublechecked when the passengers check out at the port's gate. Returning cars are also checked by special detection devices for any concealed objects.

A security source at the Interior Ministry said the apprehended terrorists come from Iraq and an Arab Maghreb country.

Condemned by Fundamentalist Leader

NC1210215790 Paris AFP in English 2120 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Oct 12 (AFP)—The leader of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood has condemned the "criminal attack" in which Egyptian parliamentary speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub died Friday, a communique said here.

Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, "supreme guide" of Egypt's main fundamentalist movement, said an "assassination is one of the most serious sins" in Islam.

Mr. al-Mahjub, 64, was killed in broad daylight in a highly professional hit-job that analysts said may be linked to Cairo's stand in the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Denounced by Opposition

NC1210200590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Egyptian opposition parties have denounced the crime in which People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub was assassinated today.

Yasin Siraj-al-Din, chairman of the al-Wafd parliamentary committee, today stated that the party and every honest citizen denounce this heinous crime which showed the cowardice of the perpetrators. He called on the government and the security organs to apprehend the criminals speedily and bring them to trial to protect Egypt's stability.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Socialist Liberal Party, denounced the assasination and said it was impossible that the assassins could be Egyptians.

Ahmad al-Sabahi, leader of the al-Ummah party, expressed his deep regret and sorrow over the assasination of Dr. al-Mahjub. He asserted that the deceased was a great man and an honest patriot.

The Socialist Labor Party denounced and condemned the horrific crime which claimed the life of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and a number of police officers. The party reiterated its rejection of violence and extremism and expressed the hope that the perpetrators will be apprehended soon and brought to trial. The party noted that the crime aimed to shake security and stability in Egypt.

Thatcher Sends Condolences

NC1310132390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in which she expressed her sympathy and condolences over the painful incident in which People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub lost his life. UK Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd handed the message to Mubarak during an audience today.

'Palestinian Embassy' Condolences

NC1310132890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian people residing in Egypt have announced their condemnation of the criminal act that leD to the death of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. They also said they extend their deepest condolences to the cherished Egyptian president, government, and people.

In a statement issued by Palestine's embassy in Cairo today, the Palestinian people asserted that the martyred man, who was a struggler and a noble personality, defended right and justice for all causes of his people, nation, and the whole world.

The statement said: We have known Dr. al-Mahjub since we were students. All the Palestinian people console ourselves over the departed, who was cherished by us, the great Egypian people, and struggler President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Arafat Cables Condolences

NC1310190090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has denounced the criminal operation against People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. In a cable of condolence he sent today to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, 'Arafat stressed his rejection and condemnation of the principle of political assassination. The text of the cable is as follows:

Your Excellency Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: We have been greatly disturbed by the news of the death of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly of the Arab Republic of Egypt following the brutal assault against him that left him and some of his companions dead.

While condemning this criminal act, we affirm our rejection of political assassinations and pray God Almighty to spare Egypt all harm and to bestow his mercy upon the deceased. Please accept, Mr. President, my heartfelt condolences, hoping you will relay my condolences to the family of the deceased. To God we are and unto him we shall return.

Fatah Representative Comments

NC1210181390 Cairo MENA in English 1737 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 12 (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative here, described the death of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub as a great loss to Egypt and the whole of the Arab nation.

In statements to MENA, al-Qidrah hailed the defunct official for his many merits and for his contributions to Arab nation issues and to law and legislation.

He further said that the world lost a reverent and prominent politician and intellect and Egypt lost one of its loyal sons. Al-Qidrah sent a cable of condolences to President Husni Mubarak on the death of al-Mahjub.

Commentary Disallows Leniency

NC1310162090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Commentary by Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb: "Egypt Is Stronger Than All Terrorist Attempts"]

[Text] No doubt the criminal assassination of the People's Assembly speaker yesterday and the concurrent massacre of several innocent people is the climax of political and moral ignobility and cowardice. To begin with, the criminals who assassinated the People's Assembly speaker and his guards had no personal feud with him and the motive for the crime was political, with the aim of taking a stand against the Egyptian people and their leadership. We believe that the perpetrators cannot boast and profess heroism for assassinating innocent people. Indeed, they cannot see themselves as strugglers for a political cause.

We do not wish to prematurely accuse a particular group of committing this act. The point we can discuss now is that this terrorist act, regardless of its perpetrators, has one objective—inciting instability and an atmosphere of insecurity. Such thinking proves the shallowness of the people behind it because the security and stability of a country like Egypt cannot be affected by such acts. All those who think otherwise deceive themselves. Egypt, with a system based on well-established institutions, can contain such terrorist acts and surmount their repercussions. Although Egypt has been in the past few years, during President Mubarak's rule, a target for several terrorist acts and assassination attempts, it has dealt with them within a security perspective and its interaction with the perpetrators was conducted strictly within the law. These acts did not affect any of Egypt's internal or external political or strategic measures.

For several years now, the political leadership has been strictly committed to the democratic processes in dealing with developments at various levels. Indeed, the democratic process has grown inexorably despite excesses that tempted many to use force and suspend democracy. This means that the method Egypt chose to establish its great progress did not stop for one moment to take heed of any criminal or terrorist act or attach more significance to it than it deserved.

Just as internal terrorist acts have not compelled the political leadership to abandon its democratic policy in any way, the attempts of some infiltrators, who work for political forces to create a state of security tension, will likewise not succeed in forcing Cairo into a violent political reaction to the perpetrators of these acts or to the political forces and organizations for whom they work. Indeed, Cairo has not held anyone responsible for the errors of these people and always found excuses for them, wiping out these errors with its tolerance and taking into account that despair, frustration, or misguidance have blinded them to the proper path.

The Arab nation's current political circumstances do not permit such terrorist acts in Egypt or elsewhere. The general situation requires every Arab to exercise the utmost restraint and calm to confront the major catastrophe confronting the Arab nation. For this reason, the perpetration of criminal political assassinations to provoke tension and instability represents a great treason against Egypt's and the Arab nation's security in these difficult circumstances. The former leniency with the perpetrators of these crimes or the seeking to find excuses for them is totally unacceptable at this stage.

Everyone who is tempted to harm Egypt's stability must take the following points into account. First: Egypt, strong and stable, is bigger and stronger than the acts of criminals and terrorists, and nothing they attempt will adversely affect the domestic front's stability, cohesion, and support for its leaders with the aim of achieving its goals for development and construction and of confronting the external dangers surrounding the Arab nation. All such persons will be punished according to the law. Second: Egypt, who previously demonstrated tolerance and forgave the non-Egyptian perpetrators of some terrorist acts and even had some people who defended and made excuses for them, after today will not show leniency to any criminal or allow a terrorist to escape. It will deal very sternly and violently with them. It will disregard expressions of regret and apology, because the situation now is too grave to permit it. Any leniency would be a dereliction of duty toward all the sons of Egypt.

If the perpetrators of yesterday's crime believe they have scored a blow against Egypt, they must properly understand that they have lost a whole battle.

Britain's Hurd Arrives, Comments on Gulf Crisis

NC1310062590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Cairo tonight on a three-day visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak and will hold talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The British official expressed regret and extended his condolences to Egypt on the tragic incident regarding People's Assembly speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

He said that he is looking forward to his meeting with President Mubarak to discuss issues related to containing the situation resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He added that Egypt under President Mubarak's leadership has played an important role in mobilizing Arab forces against Iraqi aggression while Britain mobilized European public opinion against this aggression.

He said that his talks with Egyptian officials will include the Arab-Israeli conflict and the regrettable incident that took place in Jerusalem, in order to find the appropriate solution to the Palestinian problem.

Hurd described Egyptian-British relations as good, adding that Britain understands the sacrifices Egypt has made as a result of the Iraqi aggression. He added that if political and economic pressures on Iraq do not succeed and if the sanctions imposed on Iraq do not make it withdraw from Kuwait, then the military solution will be resorted to. He said that there is no timetable for resorting to the military solution, but the state of no peace no war cannot go on.

The British minister was received at the airport by assistant foreign minister ambassador Yusuf Shararah, protocol department head ambassador Sami Thabit, the British ambassador in Cairo, and Egyptian Ambassador to London Muhammad Shakir.

Discusses Ties, Region With Sidqi

NC1310213390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2043 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and the delegation accompanying him in his office this evening.

Following a one-hour meeting, Dr. Sidqi stated that they reviewed relations between the two countries in all spheres. He added that they also discussed the UK's role as an EC member and the EC's assistance, particularly British assistance, to the countries harmed by the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Sidqi praised the British role which shows an understanding of the region's problems, particularly the Palestinian issue, and the moves that are being made to resolve them.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, British Ambassador James Adams, and Dr. Muhammad Shakir, Egyptian Ambassador to the UK, also attended the meeting.

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid, Mubarak

NC1310105790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Official Egyptian-British talks under the chairmanship of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is currently visiting Egypt, opened today.

Attending the talks for the Egyptians were Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghit, the foreign minister's adviser for political affairs; and Ambassador Muhammad al-Diwani, director of the [foreign] minister's office for technical affairs.

Present for the British were Foreign Office Under Secretary Patrick Farewelk; Simon Fullar, head of the Middle East Department at the Foreign Office; British Ambassador in Cairo James Adams; and the embassy's political adviser and charge d'affaires.

Following the talks, Ambassador Abu-al-Ghit stated that the conferees discussed the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian problem, and Egyptian-British relations.

[At 1008 GMT on 13 October, Cairo MENA in Arabic carries a Cairo-datelined item which adds, "President Husni Mubarak received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and two of his aides at the presidential office this morning.

["Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Egypt's Ambassador in London Muhammad Shakir; and British Ambassador in Cairo James Adams attended the meeting."]

Meets Mubarak on 'Military Balance'

JN1410192890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has called for a conference to discuss the basis for stability in the Middle East region. The conference will discuss the idea of a military balance in the region. This emerged during yesterday's talks between the Egyptian president and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is currently on a visit to Cairo.

Informed Egyptian sources told our radio that Hurd proposed the idea of attaining a military balance in the region by cutting the Iraqi force down to size by resorting to force. However, the Egyptian president affirmed to the British minister that the military balance in the region should not be restricted to Iraq alone, but should include Israel too. Mubarak rejected the idea of resorting to force to define this balance concerning only a certain country.

On the British Foreign secretary's request as to the need to coordinate between Arab and international forces present in the Gulf region, the Egyptian president requested that the military tasks of the international forces be defined within the framework of the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the situation the Gulf, and that they not comprise the destruction of the military and manpower of Iraq. He pointed out that such a state of affairs will bring about a state of instability in the region. The Egyptian president once again asked that the five UN Security Council permanent members make efforts to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully.

Says 'We Will Not Wait Forever'

LD1410103390 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0936 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Report by Tom Mcmullen, PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic reporter, in Cairo]

[Text] Saddam Husayn has no choice but to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait "of his own free will or at the point of a gun", Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said today.

If Saddam were allowed to keep Kuwait, would-be aggressors around the world would rejoice, Mr Hurd told the Diplomatic Institute in Cairo after meeting senior Egyptian ministers over the need to maintain the unity of the multinational force in the Gulf.

The forces ranged against Iraq did not want war, but there was "a greater evil", he said, and they would not wait for ever for Iraq to release Kuwait.

In a chilling warning of the consequences of failure to dislodge the Iraqi leader, the foreign secretary said: "Saddam Husayn has set the world a crucial test. If we pass it, there will be a chance for a new order of peace embracing the Middle East."

He added: "If we fail it, would-be agressors would rejoice, potential victims despair. No small country could ever again feel safe from the expansionist whim of a mighty neighbour. No dictator would need to fear the strongest condemnation of the United Nations.

"The world would be a sadder and less stable peace. The stakes are high. That is why we must win."

The foreign secretary said more than 20 countries were now involved on the ground in Saudi Arabia, with Egypt and Britain to the fore. It was a measure of the uniqueness of Saddam's aggression that so many countries were willing to send forces to defend the Gulf.

Only Saddam could comply with United Nations resolutions that he should withdraw from Kuwait, said Mr Hurd, "but Saddam Husayn will withdraw from Kuwait.

"On this he has no choice. His only choice is whether to leave of his own free will or to leave at the point of a gun."

Mr Hurd added: "We do not want war. We do not want bloodshed. But there is a greater evil. We must not condemn our children to live in a world where force and brutality can scorn law and decent standards of behavior.

"We must give sanctions a chance to work. But we will not wait for ever for Iraq to release Kuwait. If Saddam Husayn does not leave of his own free will, we shall have to push him out. There is no other possibility."

Mr Hurd said that once Saddam Husayn was out of Kuwait, a new initiative to find a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute would have a good chance. The wider international scene was more favourable to a concerted effort than for many years.

Many countries, including Britain, had an interest in this issue but the United States must continue to play a leading role.

Israel was entitled to credible security behind borders accepted by all her neighbours. The Palestinians were entitled to determine their own future.

Mr Hurd, who flies to Israel tomorrow, said: "We could not and cannot, by silence on our part, let Saddam Husayn posture as if he alone remembered Palestine."

Mr Hurd said that the aggression by Iraq against Kuwait was now the main obstacle to sensible diplomacy over the Arab-Israel dispute.

Discusses Events With Abu-Talib

NC1410112190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0938 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and the delegation accompanying him on his current visit to Cairo at the Defense Ministry headquarters this morning.

They exchanged the two countries' views on the developments in the region, the Gulf crisis, coordination regarding the joint forces in the Gulf, and the options proposed for ending the crisis peacefully.

The conferees also discussed last Monday's [8 October] events in al-Aqsa Mosque as well as the UN Security Council resolution and world unanimity in condemning aggression.

Navy Commander Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, British Ambassador in Cairo James William James Adams, Egypt's Ambassador in Britain Muhammad Shakir, Assistant Defense Minister Major General Salah Halabi, and Major General Hitler Tantawi, the Defense Ministry secretary-general, attended the meeting.

Holds Joint News Conference

NC1410141590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that there is an urgent need to find a settlement for the Palestinian issue. He called for focusing all efforts on finding a solution to this problem after bringing the Gulf problem to an end.

He said this in a speech at the beginning of the news conference British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd held at the conclusion of his visit to Cairo.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid praised Britain's important role as the Security Council chairman in passing the unanimous resolution condemning Israeli violence in Jerusalem. He added: The British foreign minister's visit to Egypt came at an extremely sensitive time for developments in the Gulf region, which requires continued contacts with friends. The visit also reflects the depth of Egyptian-British relations. [passage omitted]

Further on News Conference

NC1410160590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has stressed that there can be no settlement or compromise regarding the Gulf crisis except through Saddam Husayn's implementation of the UN Security Council resolution which calls for withdrawing from Kuwait, restoring its legitimate government, and releasing the hostages unjustly and cruelly detained in Iraq.

In a news conference in Cairo today, Hurd declared that none of the countries who have sent forces to the Gulf, including Egypt and the UK, want a war. He pointed out that the international community has done its utmost to attain a peaceful solution but noted that such a solution depends entirely on Saddam Husayn who must comply with the international will.

Hurd asserted that Saddam Husayn will withdraw from Kuwait because he has no recourse but to comply or leave Kuwait at gunpoint. He added: We do not want war, but we will not wait forever for Iraq to evacuate Kuwait. If he does not withdraw voluntarily, we will forcibly eject him. There are no other possibilities.

Douglas Hurd said that President Saddam Husayn assured President Husni Mubarak on 24 July that he had no hostile designs on Kuwait. The invasion, however, came a week after this assertion, betraying President Mubarak's serious efforts and friendship.

He announced that he wishes to express his appreciation to President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government for their role in the collective efforts to attain a settlement of the Gulf conflict. He also praised Egypt for extending naval and air facilities for the passage of the multinational forces sent to defend Saudi Arabia.

Hurd said that Egypt was one of the first countries to respond promptly to Saudi Arabia's request to send forces to defend the Kingdom.

The British foreign secretary added that Egypt made this step without hesitating over the economic consequences of its strong policy. He affirmed that the UK fully realizes the Egyptian sacrifices and supports Egypt's demands for international economic aid. He said that the EC has agreed to extend 5 billion Egyptian pounds in economic aid to Egypt and some other countries who were among those harmed most by the sanctions against Iraq. He said that the EC has also agreed to extend another 300 million Egyptian pounds as emergency aid. He pointed out that a large part of this emergency aid was used in repatriating Egyptians from Jordan.

Douglas Hurd moved on to talk about the Middle East problem and especially the Palestinian issue. He said that President Mubarak has worked strenuously to find a just solution for this problem. He added that there will never be an easy formula for solving this problem. He said that the horrible events in Jerusalem have highlighted the need for solving this problem. He repeated his condemnation of the actions of the Israeli police, saying that there is no justification for such an excessive use of force.

Hurd added that the worldwide reverberations from the events in Jerusalem indicate that grief and anger have gripped the world. The protracted negotiations at the Security Council in New York should not conceal the fact that the international community, even Israel's closest friends, have strongly condemned the Israeli actions.

Hurd said that if Saddam Husayn withdraws from Kuwait, the time will be opportune for a new initiative [on the Palestinian issue]. He indicated that this cannot be done before Iraq withdraws from or is pushed out of Kuwait. He stressed that the international community is now ready, more than ever before, to work and act jointly.

Hurd stressed that Britain is interested in the Palestinian issue. He praised the United States' wise step in supporting the recent UN Security Council resolution. He said that Egypt has always called for a direct dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives.

Hurd stressed Israel's right to live in peace within secure borders which are accepted by all its neighbors, as well as the Palestinians' right to self-determination. He said that efforts to solve the Palestinian problem are now suspended because of the aggression against Kuwait. This aggression constitutes the main obstacle to diplomatic efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

At the beginning of the news conference, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed the urgent need to intensify international efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue immediately after the Gulf crisis ends.

'Abd-al-Majid praised Britain's role as the Security Council chairman in passing the unanimous resolution condemning Israeli violence in Jerusalem. He said that the British foreign secretary's visit to Egypt came at an extremely sensitive time in the now over-two-months-old Gulf crisis. Developments, he said, require constant consultations with friends.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the visit provided an opportunity to emphasize the principles for which Egypt is working, namely, peace, stability, and development in the Middle East.

Ends Official Visit, Goes to Luxor

NC1410204490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left Cairo for Luxor this evening at the end of an official two-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. He also held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on developments in the Middle East and the Gulf and on bilateral ties and ways of promoting them in various spheres.

Egyptian Commander in Saudi Arabia Interviewed

NC1010112990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Interview with Staff Major General Muhammad 'Ali Bilal, commander of the Egyptian forces in the Hafr al-Batin area of Saudi Arabia, in the "Dialogue With Official" feature that is prepared and presented by Muhammad Zayd; date of interview not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zayd] Your Excellency, Maj. Gen. Bilal. Perhaps Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis has demonstrated its genuineness and its position on injustice and aggression. That was represented by His Excellency President Mubarak's meeting with the 3d Division forces who arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to defend its territory. This concept confirms that Egypt always sides with right and justice and seeks to establish the real basis of pan-Arab, lasting security in the region. Your Excellency, how do you view the courageous Egyptian stand that demonstrates the genuineness of the Egyptian people through your command of the Egyptian forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Bilal] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. First of all, we, and all the Egyptian people, know that Egypt has always been and will always be on the side of the Arab right at all times and in all places. Whenever an Arab issue emerges that deserves a strong stand, Egypt has adopted such a stand. In ancient and modern history, Egypt has played an unforgettable role. As we have been constantly saying, the Arabs in Egypt are the Arabs; the Arabs outside of Egypt generally do not carry much weight. The present conditions and those of the past two years have fully substantiated Egypt's role regarding the Arab nation.

The position taken by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the armed forces, has been Egypt's position, the position that the Arabs have expected Egypt to take. This position is best demonstrated by the arrival of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia. Just imagine the ship as it entered the port of Yanbu'. The soldiers were cheering and shouting "Allah Akbar" [God is great] and "Egypt," "Egypt," "Egypt" as they entered. This left the journalists who were waiting for the ship, breathless. His highness the general and commander of the joint command was spellbound by this cheering and God's glorification. He could not help but raise his hand in salute just after the ship arrived in port. His feelings were amazing. He raised his hand in salute and, because he could not control his feelings, he left the place for the rest of the soldiers. The soldiers' cheering was instinctive. No one told them to cheer and shout "God is great" and "Egypt." They did that out of their conviction in the role with which Egypt has entrusted them to demonstrate Egypt's role in the protection of Arab rights. It is an intrinsic conviction. I believe that when you visit and see the positions of the Egyptian troops, God willing, you will discover their very high morale. This will confirm to you that Egypt is present here through its sons who have come bearing arms to defend Egyptian national security, Arab rights, and the Arab entity here which is now threatened by deeds—we need not talk extensively about these deeds. We say, however, that Egypt is now defending the banner of the Arab entity. Egypt's role in the Arab nation and the Gulf crisis is embodied by the soldiers' and officers' total conviction.

[Zayd] You have indicated how the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—the government and the people—has received the Egyptian forces and how the Egyptian forces were cheering and saying "God is great" in view of the greatness of their role in defending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic sanctities. If we are to talk about communications, how does the fighter get in touch with his family in Egypt?

[Bilal] Contacts between the Egyptian soldier here and his family in Egypt are facilitated in at least two ways. The first way is the normal one—by mail. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has secured postal services for us. It alloted a special post office box for us and has exempted our letters from postal fees. The soldiers write letters. These letters are collected and placed in the mailbox the same day. The letters are then sent by express mail to Egypt, arriving there the following day, or the day after at the most. The letters sent to the soldiers reach their units on the front the day after they arrive. These letters are also exempted from postal fees in Egypt.

The second way is the international telephone lines the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has secured for us in the units. The soldier or officer has only to dial the number of his house in Egypt and can immediately speak with his family. This process is completely organized and every soldier has been assigned a specific time to contact his family so that all soldiers can call their families in Egypt who have telephones. Therefore, contacts are completely ensured. This is one of the factors that contributes to raising the soldier's morale and easing his mind; it also reassures his family in Egypt.

[Zayd] Perhaps Egypt's successive dispatches of forces to Saudi Arabia will strengthen the military position in the Gulf. How can this concept assume concrete form following the arrival of the latest Egyptian formation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Bilal] There is no doubt that the presence of Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia strengthens the military position in the Gulf. Their presence strengthens not only the military position but also the political position and the Arab dimension in view of Egypt's standing. If we are to talk about the military dimension in terms of combat efficiency, there is no doubt that the arrival of a complete Egyptian formation—the 3d Mechanized Infantry (?Division)—in Saudi Arabia in addition to the forces that were already there, has increased and doubled the capabilities of the Egyptian forces on Saudi land. These forces are now fully capable of carrying out their duties to repel, deter, and defeat any aggression and to prevent it from achieving its goals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We can now say that we are completely capable of carrying out our duties of defending Saudi Arabia and enhancing its defensive capabilities.

[Zayd] Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Ali Bilal, commander of the Egyptian forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. There is no doubt that the Egyptian forces are special forces that are trained in commando activities which require strength and firm action in difficult circumstances. This causes us to ask about the extent of the Egyptian fighter's acclimatization to fighting in climate and terrain such as those of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Bilal] I believe that all Egyptians are aware that the Arab citizen can quickly become acclimatized and live in any terrain in which he finds himself. Therefore, we find Egyptians living in the most remote areas, in hot and in cold areas, and demonstrating rare efficiency that makes the world talk about it, not to mention the Egyptian soldier and officer who are trained and qualified to work in various climates, circumstances, and terrains. The Egyptian soldiers became completely acclimatized to Saudi Arabia not more than 48 hours after their arrival. They are also receiving hard training and are now prepared to carry out their duty. They do not feel that there is a difference in climates. The soldiers do not feel the temperature that you feel and that can reache 45 or 51 degrees [centigrade]. They feel as if they are in Cairo.

[Zayd] The Egyptian fighter has also fought in wars, for example, in Sinai, which has the same climate, as well as in Yemen, and in other wars in which he has proved his combat efficiency.

[Bilal] The Egyptian soldier has continously proved his efficiency in every battle he has fought, in the past or now, and on any terrain and in any climate. The Egyptian soldier, as you have said, can live and not only fight in various circumstances. Southern Sinai has different conditions, climate, and terrain from those in northern Sinai. There are areas in southern Sinai, like the St. Catherine area, in which ice forms in the winter, yet the Egyptian soldier lives in it. In nothern Sinai there is desert, sandy, rugged terrain where the Egyptian soldier lives. Therefore, the Egyptian soldier can live and is trained to work in all circumstances. He is now doing so in Egypt. There is absolutely no difference between work there and here.

[Zayd] The question as to the command under which the Egyptian forces are operating has been raised. Are the Egyptian forces under the command of the multinational forces or under the Saudi forces? Can you clarify this matter?

[Bilal] We are working here under Saudi command. There is a joint command here in Saudi Arabia. His Highness Prince Lieutenant General Khalid Ibn-Sa'ud is the commander of the joint command, under whose command all the fraternal and friendly armed forces in Saudi Arabia are working. We are part of these forces and therefore we are under his command.

[Zayd] And you take orders from the Saudi command?

[Bilal] We take orders from the Saudi command.

[Zayd] What is the extent of cooperation between the Egyptian and Saudi forces in training and combat efficiency? Is this cooperation continuing?

[Bilal] There is complete and continuing cooperation. It is necessary so that we can perform our duty, especially as our duty is one. Therefore, we cooperate in performing the duty as well as in combat training, so that we have the same idea and method.

[Zayd] Major General,the Iraqi side is threatening to use chemical and other weapons. Have our armed forces received special training in confronting such chemical weapons so as to repel any aggression Iraq may launch on Saudi territory?

[Bilal] The question is not whether the soldiers have been trained, but whether they are trained or not [as heard]. I tell you that our armed forces have the highest level of training in confronting chemical weapons. I can even say that not only we, but the Egyptian armed forces as a whole, are trained to confront all conventional and nonconventional weapons that exist . Rest completely assured. We are trained and we have the means and capabilities of protecting ourselves from any kind of weapons, and even to confront them.

[Zayd] Major General, Iraq rejects the peace initiatives that have been put forward, be they Arab or international initiatives, and defies the entire international community. Will this community continue to disregard this defiance or do you believe that the Gulf is on the brink of war?

[Bilal] We all hope that this problem will be solved peacefully. It is in peace that peoples can live, develop, and prosper as governments and peoples. We all hope that everyone will tend toward peace.

[Zayd] Finally, I ask you to address the Egyptian people on behalf of the Egyptian forces you are commanding here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia so as to reassure them about their sons.

[Bilal] I can reassure the Egyptian peoplethat your fighter sons here are well. Your fighter sons here are completely convinced of their mission. Your fighter sons here are fully aware that you in Egypt support them. Your fighter children send their greetings and tell you: We sacrifice our lives for Egypt whether we are in Egypt or abroad. We defend Egypt. Be reassured about us. We have all the administrative, technical, and combat capabilities. Be reassured about us. Our political and military commands spare no effort in ensuring all capabilities for us. Be reassured about us. We are well as long as you are behind us, supporting us always. Be reassured, be reassured, be reassured.

[Zayd] Staff Major General Muhammad 'Asli Bilal, commander of the Egyptian forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thank you for this interview.

[Bilal] Thank you.

'Abd-al-Majid on Israeli Refusal To Investigate

NC1510102890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0934 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed regret over the Israeli Government's stand in refusing to receive the committee the UN secretary-general decided to send to the region to investigate Israel's responsibility for the regrettable incidents that occured in the holy shrine [al-Aqsa Mosque] on 8 October, and which resulted in the martyrdom of many Palestinians.

In a statement today, he demanded that Israel reconsider its position and respond to the international will represented by the UN Security Council's resolution on 13 October, in which the Council welcomed the secretary-general's dispatching this committee to the region.

'Abd-al-Majid said these saddening events, which Egypt denounced, reaffirm the urgent need for effective measures to protect the Palestinian people from the Israeli occupation authorities' practices, and for the Israeli Government to adhere literally to the fourth Geneva Convention concerning treatment of civilians under occupation, which applies to all territories occupied since 1967.

Consultative Council Views UN Resolutions

NC1310193990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign Affairs, and National Security Committee has condemned the Israeli acts, particularly the violation of the sanctity of religious places and the massacre perpetrated at the holy al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The committee declared its support for the UN Security Council's unanimously adopted resolution which condemns the aggression against the holy places and the repression of Palestinians, and provides for the formation of a fact-finding mission to be sent to the occupied territories.

A statement issued by the committee urged that efforts be made to adopt a UN Security Council resolution to establish a UN force to defend the holy places in the occupied territories.

The statement stressed the need to urge the Security Council to adopt immediate measures to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, noting that the delay in implementing such measures has turned the Palestinian issue into a chronic crisis that delays peace and causes disturbances in the Middle East.

Mubarak Issues Decree Dissolving Assembly

NC1210162690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Oct 90

["Text" of decree issued by President Husni Mubarak on 12 October]

[Text] In accordance with Law No. 73 for the year 1956 on organizing the political system and amendments to this law; Law No. 38 for the year 1972 on the People's Assembly and amendments to this law; Presidential Decree No. 404 for the year 1990 inviting voters to participate in a referendum on dissolving the People's Assembly; and the interior minister's Decree No. 5922 for the year 1990 announcing the results of this referendum, the president of the Republic has decided the following:

Article 1. The People's Assembly will be dissolved as of Friday, 12 October 1990;

Article 2. The voters registered in polling lists in accordance with the aforementioned Law No. 73 for the year 1956 are invited to assemble at their local polling stations to elect the members of the People's Assembly;

Article 3. The election process will be held on Thursday, 29 November 1990, as stipulated in the aforementioned Law No. 73 for the year 1956. Should a further election be necessary, it will be held on Thursday, 6 December 1990;

Article 4. The new People's Assembly is invited to a meeting at 1100, 13 December 1990;

Article 5. The competent authorities will implement this decree; and,

Article 6. This decree will be published in the official gazette and will take effect as of its date of publication.

Gulf Fund Extends Aid for Rehabilation Projects

NC1410173890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi attended the signing of a new agreement between the Gulf Development Organization and the Egyptian Central Bank at the Cabinet offices today. According to the agreement, the organization will extend $300 million to Egypt to use in projects to provide jobs to the Egyptians who have returned to the country because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Dr. 'Usamah Faqih, the organization's chairman of the board of directors, and Salah Hamid, governor of the Central Bank, signed the agreement. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges Solidarity Against Israel

NC1110152090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "Egypt Rejects Aggression and Occupation, Regardless of Their Names and Motives"]

[Text] When Egypt condemned the massacre committed by the Israeli occupation troops against the sons of the Palestinian people in the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard and joined the international community in demanding that Muslim sanctities be protected, it was reiterating its principled positions which reject occupation, regardless of the various names it takes, and oppose aggression, regardless of the parties involved. Egypt adopts a comprehensive and realistic policy at the Arab, Islamic, and international levels, a policy based on defusing crises which threaten the Arab nation's security and development. Egypt believes that all efforts, Arab and international alike, must be coordinated in accordance with international trends, in which the policy of detente has materialized as an axis around which balanced international relations revolve.

Therefore, Egypt had hoped Israel would not seize the opportunity presented by world preoccupation with the Gulf crisis to carry out illegal projects, projects it has failed to carry out in four decades, as it must be the first to realize. The rights of the people are not forfeited by the passage of time and the will of the people cannot be broken, regardless of the strength of oppression and tyranny. On the contrary, the stronger the oppression and tyranny, the more solid the will to continue along the road of struggle, even if the weapons of this struggle are mere stones.

Israel has received the largest number of Jewish immigrants in the past few weeks. It broke its pledge not to resettle Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. It is the Israeli authorities who have closed their eyes to the excesses of the Jewish immigrants when they took arms and used them against the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories. It was Israel which impeded all efforts in the past two years to establish a just and balanced peace which restores Arab rights and safeguards Israel's security. What is more, Israel knew when it rejected all peaceful initiatives that it was going in the direction opposite to that taken by the new world, which unanimously agrees on rejecting aggression and on closing ranks in the face of regional problems which threaten the policy of detente.

The al-Aqsa Mosque incident, which represents a blatant Israeli violation of all human values and rights, once again attracted the international community's attention, which had been concentrated on the Gulf region, to the seriousness of the existing situation in the Middle East. Moreover, it has further complicated matters in the region and has prompted calls for a radical cure of the problem because its potential repercussions and ramifications are like burning embers. The problems are reignited with every new development similar to the tragic incident which was committed by Israel in the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard.

The central issue which must not be ignored is that the aggressor and occupier must not be allowed to reap the fruit of his aggression through the passage of time. History shows that the oppressed and the upholder of right will sooner or later try to regain their rights whenever they find an opportunity. This is the real underlying cause of all the chronic regional problems which irritate the world in general and the Middle East in particular.

If the basic principles of logic and politics assert that a right which is contantly sought is never wasted, then all Arab countries are required to restore their solidarity to be able to defend their usurped rights. This solidarity requires, first of all, that the Arab household be rearranged from within and that harmony be achieved among all Arab countries so that a stronger party cannot control a weaker one, and one country cannot realize its ambitions at the expense of another. The Arab nation must stand as one in cohesive ranks, linked by solidarity and compassion in both good times and bad.

Only in this way can the Arabs enjoy the desired stature that will enable them to realize their interests, strengthen their stands, and win world support.

With firm conviction in its pan-Arabism, Egypt has every reason to declare in all confidence that it has taken this road and sacrificed a great deal for the sake of the Arab nation's cause. Despite all the impediments placed by others in its way, Egypt will continue to be the guardian and protector of the land and the sanctities. This is the role entrusted to it over the years. It has played this role and will continue to play it without hesitation or negligence.

Ghali Discusses Rwanda Situation with OAU Head

NC0510183090 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1657 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] New York, 5 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has discussed with OAU Secretary General Salem Ahmad Salem the developments in Rwanda, in light of reports on the outbreak of fighting in that country. During the meeting, Dr. Ghali agreed with the OAU secretary general on the need to continue contacts to find a way to contain and handle the crisis there.

In a statement after the meeting, Dr. Ghali said he is closely following the situation in Rwanda.

Dr. Ghali held several consultations with the African foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings.

Libya

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Tripoli With Delegation

LD1310210790 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] A meeting was held this evening in Tripoli between Staff Major Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the RCC [Revolution Command council] and first deputy prime minister of fraternal Iraq. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. It was also attended by the Iraqi ambassador to the great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the RCC and first deputy prime minister of Iraq, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. Staff Maj. Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud welcomed him at Tripoli International Airport. [video shows Iraqi envoy in green military uniform and black beret, carrying a gun, arriving, being greeted, then saluting a guard of honor]

Also taking part in the welcome ceremony were: the secretary for the affairs of congresses at the General People's Congress, a number of officers of the Armed People, a number of accredited ambassadors, and the Iraqi ambassador and embassy staff in the great Jamahiriyah.

Meets Jallud, Al-Kharrubi

JN1310223490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2202 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, [Iraqi] Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, met today with Libya's Revolution Command Council Members 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud and Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

During the meeting, the RCC member reviewed the imperialist U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against the Arabs that is being implemented from the sacred lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] with U.S., Zionist, and Western forces.

He stressed that, in this phase, the Arab nation is strong [words indistinct] its strength, which was laid down by Iraq following eight years of war, and after it acquired the highest means of progress in military and civilian industrialization. He added that the tide of the masses is growing every day to remove all despair that the agent Arab rulers have tried to spread among the Arab people in order to maintain their positions in power and to implement the policy of the United States, the Zionists' ally.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq has declared its position on achieving peace in the region on the Arab and international levels in accordance with justice and ideas that are in harmony with international law and legitimacy, and not the legitimacy that the United States and Zionists want.

He added that Iraq will fight and repel U.S. aggression, that the map in the Arab region will change, and that the Zionist and U.S. occupiers will be forced to leave Najd, Hejaz, Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon; and that the usurped Arab territories will return, just as Kuwait, which was usurped by the British, returned to Iraq.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud said that the conspiracy is against the Arabs, and against Iraq in particular, because it became an Arab force with considerable weight in the Arab arena. He added that the United States, the Zionists, and the colonial states do not wish Iraq to continue its progress, which has annoyed the enemies of the Arabs. The Libyan Revolution Command Council member stated that aggression against Iraq is aggression against Libya and all Arabs. He noted that besieging Iraq economically and preventing food and medicines from reaching it were the result of U.S. resolutions and that UN Security Council rules forbid such resolutions, which violate international law.

'Abd-al-Salam Jallud added that the U.S. and Western presence in the lands of Najd and Hejaz is a threat to the Arab security and future because the United States and its allies have vetoed the Arabs' liberation and their free will, and is suppressing them and their right to use their wealth themselves, just as it vetoed the return of Palestine to its rightful owners.

The meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; the head of the [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry Arab Desk; and the Iraqi charge d'affairs in Tripoli.

Delivers Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

JN1410092190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Oct (INA)—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi last night received Taha Yasin Ramdan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on fraternal bilateral ties and the prospects for their development. The first deputy prime minister also conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the Libyan leader. He also relayed to the Libyan leader Iraq's satisfaction with the good ties being maintained with fraternal Libya. Furthermore, he communicated to the Libyan leader the importance of continued meetings between officials in the two fraternal states to enhance and develop these ties in a manner that would strengthen the pan-Arab position and help confront the U.S. imperialist-Zionist dangers and aggressions against the Arab nation.

The first deputy prime minister briefed Col. al-Qadhdhafi on the realities pertaining to the U.S. and foreign presence in the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and also on the declared hostile campaign being led by the United States to implement its imperialist policy against the Arabs, plunder their wealth, and rob them of their free will and freedom. He affirmed that the opportunity for the Arabs has come. He added that their strength has been redoubled and enhanced and that the state of resurgence and awareness of the facts by the masses regarding the U.S.-Western-Zionist conspiracy against the Arab nation has worried these enemies and prompted them to bring in their fleets and ground, naval, and air troops to obstruct the march of scientific advancement which originated in Iraq, and to encircle the resurgent pan-Arab tide throughout the Arab arena.

Taha Yasin Ramadan referred to the repeated Zionist massacres against the sons of our Palestinian Arab people and the brutal massacres against the revolutionaries of the intifadah, unarmed women and elderly people—crimes which are perpetrated in coordination with and enjoy the backing of the United States, which has always opposed any draft resolution condemning the Zionists or providing for their punishment.

Ramadan referred to Iraq's serious eagerness to bring about peace and spare the region catastrophes. He recalled President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August, which affirms the need to regain the Palestinian people's rights and stresses that there will be no concessions on the Arabs' legitimate rights to their lands or wealth.

The Libyan leader asked the first deputy prime minister to convey his greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also affirmed the importance of joint action to develop fraternal bilateral ties. Likewise, he underscored the importance of continued coordination and consultations to enhance Arab solidarity which rejects U.S. domination and attempts at enslavement.

The Libyan leader asserted that Iraqi military might is a strength for the Arabs and that all Arabs should protect, safeguard, and defend this might.

Departs Tripoli 14 Oct

LD1410103890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli 14 al-Tumur [October] (JANA)—Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning following a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. He was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Tunis With Message

LD1410133190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi RCC [Revolution Command Council], first deputy prime minister of Iraq and personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, arrived this morning in Tunis.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan made a statement that he was visiting Tunisia charged with a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and that he would be holding consultations with officials in Tunisia concerning the latest developments in the situation in the Gulf region. He will be informing the Tunisian leadership of these developments, and the ensemble of contacts regarding the peaceful trend for which Iraq is calling, and also the fact that Iraq is prepared to face up to a second probability. Taha Yasin Ramadan further said that consultations between the two fraternal countries were continuous.

The Iraqi guest was welcomed at Tunis-Carthage Airport by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. The latter had talks this morning in Government House in the Kasbah with Taha Yasin Ramadan, in the presence of Habib Boulares, foreign minister, and Hamid Alwan al-Jabburi, Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia.

Confers With President

JN1410145890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 14 Oct (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received here today Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister. Ramadan conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the Iraqi people's pride in Tunisia's pan-Arab position and its sincere role in defending Arab issues. He said that Iraq is pleased by the growing relationship with fraternal Tunisia, and is eager to promote and expand it in all fields.

They discussed aspects of the U.S.-Zionist-Western conspiracy against the Arab nation and the impact of U.S.-Zionist military concentrations in Arab lands and waters in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabia Peninsula, noting that these military concentrations constitute an armed aggression against Arab sanctities, honor, and sovereignty.

Ramadan explained Iraq's honest efforts to bring about peace in the region and ward off war disasters through President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

He stressed Iraq's commitment to all Arab rights and wealth in their lands, and its complete readiness to lead the holy jihad to liberate all the occupied Arab territories and expel the U.S. and Zionist usurpers and their allies.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali asked Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn, and reiterated Tunisia's firm pan-Arab position in defending the Arab issues, referring to his satisfaction at continued Iraqi-Tunisian relations, which reflect the two fraternal peoples' wishes.

The Tunisian president also stated that the presence of foreign forces on Arab land and around their sanctities is a clear threat to pan-Arab security, stressing that the free Arabs reject any interference in their domestic affairs and any control over their wealth at the expense of the Arab nation and its firm and legitimate right to progress and self-determination. The meeting was attended by Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and the Iraqi ambassador in Tunis.

Bahrain

Diplomatic Relations Established With CSFR

JN1210125690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 12 Oct (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic [CSFR] have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today, Friday, 12 October 1990.

A Bahraini Foreign Ministry statement said that out of the two governments' desire to develop bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect in accordance with the aims and principles of the United Nations, particularly the priciples of equality, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and noninterference in internal affairs, the Governments of Bahrain and Czechoslovakia have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today.

Kuwait

Resistance Stinger Said To Down Iraqi Plane

NC1410144390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Fatimah Husayn, the Kuwaiti planning minister's wife, has told reporters and Kuwaiti expatriates in Jeddah that the Kuwaiti resistance downed an Iraqi passenger plane carrying Iraqi troops last week. She did not, however, specify the day on which the attack was carried out. She added that the plane's wing and engine were hit with a Stinger missile while taking off from Kuwait Airport and that the plane subsequently fell into the Gulf waters.

Fatimah Husayn said that she had not personally witnessed the attack but explained that the operation had been photographed. She also reported that two Iraqi officers were killed by a car bomb in front of the Hilton Hotel in Kuwait and another officer sustained burns on the face. Some Kuwaiti refugees said that a powerful explosion occurred in this hotel.

Iraq Drains French Embassy Water Tank

LD1410202190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The French diplomats who remain stuck at the French Embassy in Kuwait are in a very difficult position. The Iraqis are reported to have succeeded in emptying the water tank by using the system for draining the external pipes. Our diplomats are thus now reduced to drinking water from the bathtubs and sinks, which they had filled as a precautionary measure. They only have rice left to eat. We may recall that the French Embassy is the only [EC] one still open in Kuwait apart from that of Great Britain.

GCC Secretary-General Calls for Liberation

LD1410155890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah 14 Oct (SPA)—The secretary-general of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, has stressed that the policy of the GCC member countries is clear regarding the disaster that has befallen the Kuwaiti people. In a statement published today, he says that the position of the member states of the Council is to confront any attempts to impede the question of the liberation of Kuwait, through collective diplomatic and political action using all channels in the world in order to do away with such attempts and to reveal them to the world public opinion. [passage omitted]

Mr. Bisharah said that the responsibility is great and requires action and hard efforts. He called for unity of language and for offering overall support for the Kuwaiti people inside Kuwait to strengthen its steadfastness in facing up to the vicious Iraqi occupation, and to restore legitimacy to Kuwait.

Amir Addresses Popular Conference in Jeddah

LD1310140290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 0827 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Speech by Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, at the Popular Conference of Kuwaitis in Jeddah—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Brothers, may God's peace, prayers, and benedictions be upon you. On the morning of Thursday, 2 August, Kuwait suddenly faced a treacherous act of aggression carried out by the Iraqi regime. We thought that what Kuwait, the people and the government, had given to it would have been enough to plant the seeds of goodness in its conscience and contain the evil tendency in his behavior. However, evil was deeply rooted. It betrayed its promises, perfidiously deceived its brother and neighbor, and carried out rape in violation of all international laws and norms, ungrateful to Kuwait's support and aid.

Brothers, Kuwait was an oasis of security, peace, and stability. It was a refuge for all good and honorable people who could find in it security, dignity, and good life. This aroused the jealousy of the criminal Iraqi regime which squandered its resources for personal aims. And when it felt that the people had begun to get restless and unhappy about its perversions and wrongdoings it thought fit to distract them by opening a new front against Kuwait—which had always been, and regardless of the circumstances, a good supporter and helper of its brotheren Arabs and Muslims. Iraq sent in its armed forces after midnight to invade, occupy, and carry out acts of violence, killings, and armed robberies against Kuwait's innocent citizens in an unprecedented rancor. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime's irritation arises from the fact that it has not been able to quell our determination since it managed to occupy our territory. Our steadfastness and resistance like one man against the treacherous occupiers has aroused the respect and admiration of the whole world which has been closely following our extensive moves to liberate our country and defeat the criminal invaders. Victory is not, God willing, far away. [passage omitted]

Brothers, Kuwaitis have tasted freedom for a long time. They were committed to the shura and the practice of democracy within the framework of our Constitution, which we all agreed on. However, even if there have been different interpretations about how to organize the Kuwaiti state, the Kuwaitis are still strenuously together, determined to confront threats. This is the clear truth which the Iraqi regime does not understand. It miscalculated the nature of the Kuwaiti internal front. It mistook the endeavors and efforts of some active Kuwaitis to reorganize the Kuwaiti state as indifference and contradictions between the sons of Kuwait.

You, the sons of Kuwait, are proving through this meeting that you are reaffirming to the tyrant enemy and to the whole world the unity and harmony of the Kuwaiti people in facing up to occupation and your vehement rejection of it. Your meeting here is the best answer to your enemy and a message to the world, a message which should affirm your unity and harmony to face up to the ones who have usurped your country. [passage omitted]

Brothers, duty compels us all at this meeting to be determined to fully cooperate with each other to achieve a noble aim—the liberation of the homeland from the filth of the occupier by relying first upon God, then upon ourselves and our brothers and friends. Liberation should be our sole dream and preoccupation. However, we should also focus our attention on the Kuwait of the future. It will be, God willing, more powerful, haughtier, more stable, and more secure given the Kuwaiti people's sacrifice in this crisis—a sacrifice which will be a strong and firm pillars for a new Kuwaiti lease on life in all walks of life toward a better future. During this Kuwait will be for all the sincere and honorable people who defend, safeguard, and protect it. The noble Kuwaiti people will then be an impregnable barrier protecting the homeland against unforeseen problems and tragedies. We should not take our current tragedy as God's curse. We have a cause and a legitimate right which God's might protects. [passage omitted]

Conference Resumes

LD1310205290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1910 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Oct (SPA)—The expanded Kuwaiti popular conference, now convening in the Kingdom, resumed in a closed session at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah this evening, under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, and in the presence of members of the Kuwaiti government.

The session is attended by former ministers, and official and popular Kuwaiti personalities, as well as a number of social, political, and economic figures in Kuwait.

The meeting will set up a drafting committee to draw up its recommendations and draft a final statement. It will discuss the efforts exerted to liberate Kuwait from the treacherous Iraqi occupation.

Ends First Closed Session

LD1310220690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti popular conference, meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah, this evening ended its first closed session, which was presided over by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister.

Following the session, conference spokesman Dr. Muhammad al-Rumayhi said the conference today reviewed the messages and letters addressed to it from inside and outside Kuwait. In a statement to the press, he said that Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah spoke at length during the session about Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations, and about the 1932 and 1963 agreements.

Al-Rumayhi said the conference also heard reports from several people, who had recently fled Kuwait, about the bestial actions committed by Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait.

He said the conference decided to consider the speeches delivered by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, at today's morning session, as two important documents of the conference.

He pointed out that the session elected a committee of 20 members to draft the final statement.

Ends Second Closed Session

LD1410154490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah 14 Oct (SPA)—The Kuwaiti popular conference this afternoon concluded the second closed session that was held at Conference Hall in Jeddah with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, in the chair.

The official spokesman for the conference, Dr. Muhammad al-Rimihi, stressed that the Kuwaiti people have supported the contents of the three addresses delivered at the opening session of the conference by his highness the amir of the State of Kuwait, the crown prince of Kuwait, and Professor 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Saqr, and they were considered as main and basic documents of the conference.

In a press statement, Dr. al-Rimihi said that the conference has decided to send letters to the governments of the UN Security Council member states expressing the thanks and appreciation of the people of Kuwait to these governments for their positions on the Kuwaiti problem.

The conference has also decided to send delegates from the Kuwaiti people to various states, including politicians and economists, to explain the Kuwaiti issue. Dr. al-Rimihi also pointed out that it decided to strengthen the staff of Kuwaiti embassies abroad to extend more services to Kuwaiti citizens, and to undertake information-related and political activities in favor of the Kuwaiti cause.

The conference, he added, decided to set up committees and groupings of Kuwaiti specialists in various domains like doctors, engineers, etc., to plan and study ways of building Kuwait after the liberation. He also underlined that during its debates the conference dealt with ways of liberating Kuwait.

Concluding his statement, Dr. al-Rimihi said that the conference has decided to postpone until tomorrow morning the meeting planned for this evening so as to give the opportunity for the drafting committee to prepare the final communique of the conference and draft the recommendations.

Oman

Saudi Joint Forces Commander Arrives 14 Oct

On Tour of GCC States

JN1410142890 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and the theater of operation in Saudi Arabia, today arrived on a visit to the Sultanate within the framework of a tour of a number of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states. [passage omitted]

Departs Muscat

NC1410191890 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] His Royal Highness General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theater operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his accompanying delegation left the country tonight following a one-day visit to the Sultanate, during which he was received by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

He was seen off by His Highness Rear Admiral Shihab Bin-Tariq al-Sa'id, commander of the Royal Omani Navy; Staff Major General Talib Bin-Miran al-Ra'isi, commander of the Royal Omani Air Force; and Saudi Ambassador 'Abd al-Muhsin Salih al-Balla'.

Qatar

Saudi General, Amir Discuss Military Matters

JN1310111290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 13 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received here today Commander of Saudi Joint Forces General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and the accompanying delegation, which are currently visiting Doha.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; and Brigadier General Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah al-'Atiyyah, commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces.

They discussed the developments in the region and the current crisis caused by the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, particularly the military aspects of these issues.

Departs 14 Oct

JN1410142090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 14 Oct (WAKH)—Commander of Saudi Joint Forces General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the accompanying delegation left Doha this morning following a two-day visit to Qatar.

The visit of the Saudi military official is part of a tour of the region.

Czech Official, Delegation on 'Goodwill Mission'

LD1310202290 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1600 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Qatar—Amir Khalifa Bin Hamad al-Thani today received a Czechoslovak goodwill mission in the capital Doha headed by Richard Wagner, advisor to our president of the Republic. The amir of Qatar praised the Czechoslovak stand on solving the crisis in the Persian Gulf. At the same time he expressed himself in favor of entering into diplomatic relations with our country and developing cooperation. The Czechoslovak mission also had talks with the leadership of the Qatar national oil company on possibilities of cooperation, in particular in the oil and gas industries. They agreed that experts from both countries will meet as soon as possible to evaluate concrete possibilities of mutual joint action.

Meets With Amir

JN1310222590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 13 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received a written message from President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

The message was conveyed by Dr. Richard Wagner, adviser to President Vaclav Havel, during his meeting with the Qatari amir in Doha today. THE QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the message is related to developing bilateral relations and the current developments in the region. It added that the message included an official invitation to the Qatar amir from President Havel to visit Czechoslovakia and that the Qatari amir accepted the invitation and promised to fulfill it at the appropriate time.

Diplomatic Ties Established

JN1410164090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 14 Oct (WAKH)—The State of Qatar and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic have decided to establish diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level as of today.

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Qatari Foreign Ministry in this regard:

Out of their desire to strengthen and improve their ties of friendship and cooperation, the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic have decided to establish diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level. Both parties are confident that the establishment of diplomatic ties and the exchange of ambassadors will help improve international cooperation, bolster international peace, and entrench the noble principles of the Nonaligned Movement. The State of Qatar and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic underline their readiness to build their bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter and on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each, and noninterference in the other party's internal affairs.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Brigade Sent to Saudi Front

LD1410084690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0110 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh 13 Oct (SPA)—Kuwait Defense Minister Shaykh Nuwwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah has pointed out that the regrouping of the Kuwaiti forces in the Kingdom is being carried out. A whole brigade has been equipped and trained and has been sent to the front to cooperate with the Saudi armed forces and other supporting friendly forces in the front.

He added in an interview with VOA last night that the Kuwaiti government has called upon Kuwaitis to volunteer, pointing out that the volunteers are receiving training on how to use guns, to fight an urban war, to protect themselves against chemical weapons, and civil defense.

The Kuwaiti defense minister pointed out that the Kuwaiti Army will be formed after the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion, adding that the Kuwaiti Army will be reorganized and modernized.

Shaykh Nuwwaf al-Ahmad affirmed that the Kuwaiti resistance has not ceased; it receives orders from the Kuwaiti leadership. He pointed out that the decision to step it up or reduce its effectiveness will take into account the interest of Kuwaitis inside the country who are facing the Iraqi occupation.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed his hope that the Iraqi regime will comply with the resolutions of the Arab League and the UN Security Council and withdraw its forces from Kuwait so that peace and security may prevail in the region.

Turkey's Ozal Arrives in Jeddah 13 Oct

LD1310163790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 13 Oct (SPA)—The Turkish president, his excellency Turgut Ozal, arrived in Jeddah at 1715 hours today on a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, welcomed the Turkish president at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport.

He was also welcomed by his royal highness Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, his royal highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and aviation, and inspector general. [passage omitted]

Meets With King

TA1410064690 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 0600 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal is continuing his contacts in Saudi Arabia, the first leg of his tour to some Middle East and Gulf states. Ozal, who was welcomed with a ceremony at Jeddah by Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, attended a dinner hosted in his honor by the king last night. The talks between the two delegations began after the dinner. The two delegations, which were headed by Ozal and Fahd, discussed the situation in the wake of the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

In a statement after the talks, which lasted until 2300 [2100 GMT], Turkish presidential spokesman Kaya Toperi said that both sides agree that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait, and that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government must be restored. Toperi noted that Turkey and Saudi Arabia also agreed that the embargo on Iraq is effective and it is necessary to await its outcome. The spokesman added that the two leaders will meet again today and discuss bilateral issues. The meeting between Ozal and King Fahd is expected to take place at 1100 [0900 GMT] today. Following this meeting, Ozal will proceed from Jeddah to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

King Sends Condolences on Egyptian Speaker

LD1310043190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today telephoned his brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to express his deepest sorrow and grief at the terrorist crime that claimed the life of the late Rif'at al-Mahjub, Egyptian People's Assembly speaker, and those accompanying him.

The custodian of the two holy mosques also expressed his sincere personal condolences and the condolences of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, people, and government to His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the people and government of our beloved Egypt, and to the family of the deceased for their painful loss. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Turkish President Ozal Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN1410201390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Oct (WAKH)—Turkish President Turgut Ozal arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan led those receiving him upon arrival.

Meets With President

JN1510122390 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] A round of talks was held this morning between His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and His Excellency Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

The talks were attended by His Highness Shaykh Sultan Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, head of the Public Works Department; His Highness Shaykh Tahnun Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, representative of the Eastern Province ruler; His Highness Shaykh Surur Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, head of the Presidential Diwan; His Excellency Shaykh Humayd Ibn-Muhammad al-Mu'allah, minister of planning; His Excellency Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency Hamad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Midfa', minister of health and head of the honor mission accompanying the Turkish president; His Excellency Khamis Bati al-Rumaythi, director of the President's office; and Yusuf 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Ansari, United Arab Emirates [UAE] ambassador in Ankara.

The talks were also attended by ranking Turkish officials accmpanying the Turkish president and the Turkish ambassador to the UAE.

A responsible source stated after the talks that the talks centered on the current situation in the Gulf region in light of the Iraqi aggression on fraternal Kuwait. The Turkish president explained his country's viewpoint regarding the Gulf crisis and the role Turkey is playing.

The source added that the two presidents exchanged views on the current international efforts to find a solution to realize the immediate and full Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories, returning the legitimate government represented by His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir in implementation of the Security Council and Arab summit resolutions, and not recognizing any of the results of the Iraqi invasion.

His excellency the president praised the efforts exerted by world countries to preserve peace and security in the region. The talks also dealt with a number of Islamic and international issues of mutual interest, in addition to the strong relations between the UAE and Turkey and means of bolstering them in various fields.

Concludes Visit

JN1510122890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAKH)—Turkish President Turgut Ozal left Abu Dhabi today after a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan headed those seeing the Turkish president off, along with a number of ranking officials.

Yemen

Salih Receives Saddam Cable on Anniversary

JN1310215190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has received a cable of congratulations on the occasion of the glorious 14 October Revolution's 27th anniversary. The following is the text:

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, Republic of Yemen.

On the occasion of the 14 October Revolution anniversary, we are pleased to send you and your comrades in the Presidential Council and the Yemeni leadership our best wishes and the warmest brotherly sentiments. The fraternal Yemeni people, who have provided the most splendid examples of giving and sacrifice, have, with their great national and pan-Arab sensitive feeling, uprooted the false borders that the usurper colonialists created, restored unity to the one people, and revolted against the false division of the Arab people and the one homeland. Thus came the great historic achievement by you and your comrades in the Presidential Council, and Yemen returned as one, as it has always been through its honorable civilized history: this has been a stream that influenced the Arab awakening and the nation's generous civilization, and an effective force within the force of this nation, which faces the challenges of the age and the conspiracy of division, (?fragmentation), and weakening.

We wish you and your comrades in the leadership of the Republic of Yemen and the Arab people in Yemen further glory and strength.

Peace and mercy of God be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Husayn Issues Child Day Message 12 Oct

JN1210170090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1501 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Message by President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of "Iraqi Child Day," place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Our message today goes out to the children, even if on this occasion we are also addressing ourselves to adult minds. As we celebrate the day of the Iraqi child, we also observe the day of the children of Arabism and the children of the world, and not least the children of dear Palestine—the heroes of the stones, every one of whom is acting like a hero of our nation taking on injustice and Satan in the same camp as their fathers and their patient mujahidin brothers.

When, on this day, we ponder the great significance of this particular day being named as day of the child, we must recall all the humanitarian principles, without which we do not believe man can become free or happiness prevail in human society. In this year, the invocation of the means to bring about the happiness of children will be fraught with all the dangers inherent in the economic blockade and the threat of military force by imperialism and invader armies. It is significant in the uniqueness of these circumstances and their implications.

A few days ago, specifically on 3 October 1990, the whole world observed the international day of the child. The observance was attended, and speeches were made by anyone who could be there. Some of them proposed partial solutions to childhood conditions, just as they used to propose partial solutions to issues bearing on key issues of human society. Typical of those responsible for human tragedies when they distance themselves from universality, and thus distance themselves from the right thinking and the right remedy, they sought to divorce the question of childhood from the subject of life. For us, however, it is inconceivable that a happy childhood can be attained without happy lives for their adult fathers, mothers, and relatives.

In that international gathering, some speakers argued that to eliminate starvation of children in the world, they would need several billion dollars. It is natural that the rich and those responsible for the travails of humanity should find it virtually impossible to admit that this human goal is achievable and that this sum can be made available for that noble objective. We see clearly that there is an inseparable link between children's happiness and the communities in which they live. We submit that there can be no freedom for the children without pure milk and pure clothing of a chaste mother. Such conditions are impossible to obtain in circumstances of hunger and want, or where the allurements of affluence in a community sated in all its wants cause the envy of a community yearning for all that it wants and needs.

We find that true happiness cannot be divorced from a sense of dignity, and that decent bread is only possible when it is mixed in dignity. A child will only be free in a free community. A child cannot be born free in a family enslaved by shackles of others, for in time, it is bound to become similarly enslaved.

Children of the world become free and healthy when all the adults of the world become free and possess what it takes to be healthy. The children of the world can have no secure future except under circumstances of equality. The children of any society cannot be free except when their societies have equal opportunities with other societies and enjoy their freedom equally. In a world dominated by the rich whose humanity is eaten up by greed, the wealth of these rich can only spawn destitution causing hunger and disease.

A child whose parents are enslaved by denial of equal opportunities and livelihood, and whose mother's milk is soiled with vice, cannot but be enslaved itself. And its sense of enslavement will haunt it, even if in adulthood, he manages to free himself of the shackles of material slavery.

The big difference in the level of scientific and technological progress and economic development among societies will always effect the type of outlook and conduct that will give rise to a feeling of superiority in these fields and a kind of superior outlook and conduct on the part of the society of tyrants over societies that are less developed. All this will produce suffering afflicting the present and future of children, after having afflicted their parents, and causing them to lose their ability to deal properly with life.

Wherever there is a difference in the opportunity to choose, a difference in freedom and liberation will result. Consequently, the difference in freedom at the expense of others will distance those who enjoy freedom without limit from God and from those who are deprived of freedom and its requirements without having any imminent hope. For, possessing absolute freedom of action over the destiny of other humans will keep those who practice this approach at a distance from God, just as those who are able to achieve all their wishes and whims are distanced from God. This applies to those who possess wealth that is not limited by law or morality in an impoverished society. It also applies to those who are capable and who use their capabilities negatively in weak societies.

We view national society as one society; the pan-Arab society as one; and the world as one human society. There is no room for discrimination, which creates differences in human dealings on any religious, ethnic or other basis, to prevail in these societies.

It is on the grounds of misunderstanding of the above—which is detailed in all religions, primarily the true Islamic religion—that the children in Africa and in other places have remained hungry and enslaved and died because of hunger. This is not because food and medicine are not provided by human organizations the way they should be, or because they have not provided them at all, but because the proper living conditions have not been made available to their fathers and mothers as they should be. And, if the adults are not provided with the proper living conditions, a living cannot be provided for the children. Consequently, if anyone wants to help children there, he should help adults as well, in terms of job opportunities and sound living. The decisions adopted by human societies should be replaced, or, other decisions issued by political leaders should be concomitant with the former. Moreover, the required funds should be spent on development projects, and not just on projects to provide food and medicine for children. This is because, if poverty remains, it will produce a continuing lack in children's milk and medicine. Happiness will never be achieved if poverty continues.

Some of those who attended the celebration of the international day of the child and who delivered high-sounding speeches, including Bush, have spent more than $20 billion on the armies of invasion and other armies that came to the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabian Gulf. Specialized human organizations and societies have not been able to provide this sum for children who are dying of hunger or of disease because medicine is either scarce or not available at all.

Those who are shedding crocodile tears, on the international day of the child, over the future of children that are dying in the world are the same ones, they and their regimes, who are responsible for those tragedies, and we hold them responsible today for the tragedy of any Iraqi child that dies because of a shortage of food or medicine caused by their unjust blockade. They and their regimes are responsible for all this. Also, they are responsible for all the tragedies of wars and civil wars in the world, be it directly or because of their intrigues and conspiracies. Therefore, they alone are responsible not only for the tragedy of the Palestinian people and the Zionists' oppression of them in general, but also for the persecution and crimes against the children of Palestine in particular.

Those who believe that everything in the lives of others can be bought are true to their nature because they themselves put up everything in their lives for sale. This had been their feelings and behavior in their relations with Iraq before 2 August. Therefore, the Croesus of Kuwait and his henchmen were dragged into their schemes after their vision and hearts were blinded by the wealth that had been stolen from the great Iraqi people. They believed, curse them, that they were able, through their usurpation and wealth, to tamper with the values of the Iraqis and with the sacred virtues in which they believed. They thought they could not only enslave and corrupt the lives of adults but also enslave children in pursuit of their despicable aims.

The duty toward God and the national and noble pan-Arab and human duty compelled us to carry out what overcame the Croesuses on 2 August, the victorious day of the call. Thus, not only were Iraqi men and women able to remain free, but a great opportunity was made for a freedom whose waves are expanding, God willing, across the Arab homeland and the entire world.

My beloved children of Iraq. I am aware that you love sweets, despite the harm they cause to your beautiful teeth. Many of you, especially the very young, live on imported milk, and the quantity of this milk available in Iraq has been reduced because of the blockade that Bush has imposed. He is abetted in his crime by Zionism and its creation, Israel, which usurped the Palestinian land. I and your comrades in the leadership feel with you, and we are living through what some of you are suffering. We will do what determined and valiant men should do whose conscience is filled with responsibility. Our aim is to alleviate your suffering to the best of our ability, as God wishes us to do. However, the shortage or unavailability of sweets is less harmful compared to what Bush wants. Bush wants to enslave you after enslaving your fathers and mothers. Shame on him and shame on those who stand behind him with bowed heads and shameless faces. Bush wants to take control of your present and that of your families so that he can dominate your future in order to satisfy Zionism, evil Israel, and imperialist ambitions.

Therefore, your fathers have proudly rejected Bush's wishes and preferred what God wants for every free people, so that you might remain proud, O beloved ones. Abundance, sweets along with pride, a decent present, and a bright future are all coming with the steadfastness of your fathers and mothers. Honor will remain protected and safe, God willing.

Children are the beloved of God. They are our beloved from all nationalities, races, and religions, be they in Iraq, Palestine, and the Arab homeland, or all over the face of the globe.

God is great. Ignominy to those who kill childhood and life and alienate themselves from God, the one and only.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 23 Rabi' al-Awwal 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 12 October 1990.

USSR Warned Against Divulging Secrets to U.S.

JN1210160590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1504 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—News agencies and the Voice of America radio station have quoted a Pentagon official as saying that U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney will ask Soviet officials during his coming visit to the USSR for information on Iraq's weapons and defense capabilities.

Commenting on these news reports, a military spokesman has stated the following:

The relationship between Iraq and the USSR dates back to the late fifties and has been maintained up to now. This relationship involved various spheres. In contrast to other armament and training relationships, this one has been marked by the fact that it covered all classes of the Armed Forces. Throughout this period, we continued to guard the secrets of Soviet weaponry in a manner that has made us stand out, particularly in the wake of the July 1968 Revolution, among those with whom the USSR has maintained relationships of this kind.

We do not want to bother our listeners by recalling the United States' desperate attempts to obtain the secrets of some Soviet weapons during the war years with Iran, using the Soviet decision to suspend arms shipments for more than one year because of differences of opinion at the time. At that time, the Central Intelligence Agency tempted us with various offers to achieve this objective. However, Iraq proudly rejected these attempts and viewed the protection of Soviet weapon secrets as an ethical matter for us insofar as refusing to break pledges or taking action that undermines ties built on trust between parties to a relationship; in addition to the fact that such a thing contravenes pan-Arab security and its precepts. The most noteworthy attempt in this regard was made in 1981, when the United States offered to supply Iraq with 100 175mm-caliber guns and 100,000 shells for these guns in return for a Soviet T-72 model tank. Despite the fact that our armament situation was bad at the time, and we needed this arms deal, we proudly refused the cheap bargain, kept our honor, and guarded the secrets of the friend.

The spokesman added: Hence, we have the right to ask the USSR, and its Armed Forces in particular, to protect the secrets of our armament relationship with them. We ask them not to put these secrets into the cheap bargaining market of some shortsighted Soviets who might entertain the idea of responding favorably to this U.S. request and to the bargains entailed in it.

The spokesman went on to say: We warn against the consequences of such an action, if it were to happen. If the USSR provides the United States with the information it is demanding, then we would be compelled to act to protect our pan-Arab security. One of the measures we might take might involve asking the competent official authorities to obstruct the travel of Soviet citizens who were privy to serious secrets regarding the armament, supply, and production of weapons as a result of their daily duties with Iraqis. Then, dire consequences would befall anyone who betrays the trust and fails to keep the pledge.

Photographs Said To Point to Uranium Mining

LD1310171490 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1625 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Iraq was feared tonight to be mining uranium for use in nuclear weapons production.

Freelance film maker Gwynne Roberts said evidence, including photographs taken by a Soviet spy satellite, indicated Iraq had mines in its northern Gara mountains. For his ITN report screened on Channel 4's The World This Week, Mr. Roberts talked to Kurds who claimed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had regularly visited the site, about 40 miles south of the Turkish border.

One unnamed source said: "The exact spot is not known but that it is in northern Iraq is something that has been verified by Iraqi exile sources, Iraqi defectors and intelligence sources all over the world."

In a bid to pinpoint the location of the mines, Mr. Roberts used Soviet spy satellite pictures combined with a computer technique developed by University College, London. Analysing the images, Imperial College, London, mineralogist John Moore said: "You can see a relatively wide new road which has been driven up the hillside here to an area of excavation there. On this hillside there are two...mine entrances nearby."

A building appears on the images near the mine entrances, which, said Paul Halliwell of the European Nuclear Proliferation Information Centre, "looks like a uranium milling plant...to produce about a ton of uranium."

Richard Macklin of the Uranium Institute said if the images did indicate the existence of uranium mines, "having a supply of uranium ore can allow you to have within your own country everything you need to develop a weapon."

Reports Say Nation Agrees to Partial Withdrawal

Baghdad Informed Amman

JN1410131790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1214 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] An Arab diplomatic source has told our radio that Iraq recently informed Jordan about its readiness to withdraw from part of Kuwait after retaining the Saddamiyat al-Mitla' region, which includes Bubiyan and Warbah Islands and the al-Rumaylah oilfield area. The territories which Iraq said it was ready to withdraw from constitute what has come to be known as the Kuwait Governorate under the administrative division carried out by Iraq on 28 August, which attached Saddamiyat al-Mitla' to the Iraqi Governorate of al-Basrah.

The same source pointed out that this proposal was made by President Saddam Husayn during a three-hour meeting with King Husayn in Jordan on 9 September. However, Jordanian official quarters have not confirmed this meeting.

Eyewitnesses said that the Iraqi authorities moved the Iraq-Kuwait border post some 80 km inside Kuwaiti territory and erected barbed wire in both directions as far as the eye can see. This area constitutes the region which Iraq intends to retain, according to the same source.

Saddam Tells Primakov

JN1410133790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has expressed his readiness to withdraw from most of the Kuwaiti territory while retaining the southern al-Rumaylah oilfield and the islands of Bubiyan and Warbah to ensure an outlet for Iraq on the Gulf. This was revealed by the Soviet News Agency NOVOSTI, which explained that the Iraqi president expressed this readiness to Soviet presidential envoy Yevgeniy Primakov during their meeting in Baghdad on 6 October.

NOVOSTI added that Primakov informed President Saddam Husayn that Moscow will not do anything to stop U.S. military intervention against Iraq if such an intervention took place.

Editor Denies Reports

JN1410172990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—A political analyst has denied reports carried by some news agencies and radio stations today on Iraq's readiness to withdraw from part of Kuwait. The INA international affairs editor said that reports by these media that Iraq was ready to withdraw from part of Kuwait and keep part of it are a sheer lie and unfounded and that those who spread such reports and their goals are well known.

He emphasized Iraq's firm position that Kuwait is part of the homeland, Iraq. He said that the documents and realities about the phases of Kuwait's separation by the colonialists are also well known.

The editor pointed out that any talk about a withdrawal from Kuwait is only an illusion which exists in the minds of the suspects who are opposed to the will of the proud Iraqi people and their firm, legitimate rights.

He stressed that Iraq will never withdraw from its land, for which it will offer every sacrifice, and that the sons of Iraq will defend it with their souls and money.

The editor also warned that the Iraqi people will cut off the hand which tries to harm it, and that Kuwait will always remain an Iraqi land.

Jasim Says Reports False

JN1510075690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim affirmed in Baghdad last night that Iraq is ready to wage a very long battle to keep Kuwait. The Iraqi minister denied reports published by the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI which said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had informed an envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of an Iraqi plan to partially withdraw from Kuwait.

In a news conference he held in the Iraqi capital, Mr. Jasim stated that Kuwait is the 19th governorate of Iraq and that what NOVOSTI reported is not true and totally wrong. He affirmed that Iraq will keep Kuwait even if it is forced to wage a very long battle.

The Soviet news agency NOVOSTI had reported that Iraq was ready to withdraw from some parts of Kuwait so long as it could keep the two strategic islands of Warbah and Bubiyan, in addition to the al-Rumaylah oilfield.

Ministry Source Denounces U.S. Detention of Ship

JN1310221190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—A responsible source at the Oil Ministry has denounced the unethical and inhuman practices of the U.S. and Atlantic fleets for intercepting the Iraqi vessel Tadmur, detaining it for three days, and plundering the rations of its crew.

In a statement to INA today, the source said U.S. and Atlantic naval units and helicopters intercepted the Iraqi vessel Tadmur on 8 October while sailing without cargo in the Arabian Gulf and tried to stop it by force. However, the vessel's captain, Falih Mahjan Laftah, and crew refused to obey the naval units' orders. The ship continued to sail toward its scheduled destination, ignoring the harassments and provocations by the new sea pirates.

He added that the U.S. and Atlantic naval units surrounded the Tadmur the next day and commando troops boarded it while waving their weapons in the face of the ship's captain and crew when it was in the Gulf of Oman. They detained the ship for three days at Muscat Port and only released it three days later after the sea pirates had plundered what little rations of wheat, rice, sugar, cooking oil, and fruits its crew had. This was conduct that conflicts with the simplest international norms and values. The ship and its crew then sailed again without any rations.

News Agency Reports 'Harassment' of Tanker

JN1310210790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2054 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi tanker Al-Mutanabbi was subjected today to harassment by U.S. frigates and force to stop in the Gulf of Oman.

An Oil Ministry official told INA this harassment and infringements against Al-Mutanabbi, carrying the families of some of the crew, including four women and six children, are in breach of the most basic conventions and human values.

The Iraqi vessel Al-Wasiti was subjected to piracy by American, British, and Australian battleships on 8 October as it sailed in the Gulf of Oman.

Soviet Nationals Leave Baghdad for Moscow

JN1510064690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Civil aviation sources at Saddam Husayn Airport in Baghdad have announced that 126 Soviet nationals left Iraq for Moscow yesterday. This is the third group of

Soviet nationals that has been allowed to leave since the USSR and Iraq signed the recent agreement on allowing 1,500 Soviets to leave Iraq.

Nation Resumes Diplomatic Ties With Iran

JN1410175490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1721 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry senior secretary general Wisam al-Zahawi and his delegation returned to Baghdad this evening following a five-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Mr. al-Zahawi said that during the visit he held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with the latter's visit to Baghdad, the Iraqi prisoners in Iran, and the reopening of the Iraqi and Iranian Embassies in Baghdad and Tehran.

He added that it was agreed to continue contacts and exchange visits to pave the way for the restoration of normal ties between the two countries, and to secure the release of prisoners and resettle them as soon as possible.

A statement on the visit was issued in both Baghdad and Tehran. The following is the text:

During the official visit made by Mr. Wisam al-Zahawi, senior secretary general at the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Iraq, to Tehran at the invitation of Mr. Mottaki, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which took place between 19 and 23 Rabi' Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 10 to 14 October 1990; and out of both parties' desire to normalize relations and in order to enable both countries to resume their diplomatic ties, they have agreed to open their embassies as of today, Sunda, 23 Rabi' Awwal 1411, corresponding to 14 October 1990.

Editor Denies Involvement in Al-Mahjub Killing

JN1410113190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Commenting on some statements and news reports carried by the Egyptian news media accusing Iraq one way or another of assassinating Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, the Arabic affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY stated the following:

These statements and news reports which were made public in accordance with the Egyptian media policy, which is based on the promotion of lies and the misrepresentation of facts, are meant to cover up the anti-regime popular indignation currently brewing inside Egypt.

The editor adds: The Husni [Mubarak] regime, which is involved in the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Egypt and the Arab nation, is using all means to implicate any party that opposes its treasonous course which has continued since the conclusion of the Camp David accords up to date, in everything that befalls it.

The editor goes on to say: This incident brings to mind the attack carried out against 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim by Iraqi youths in 1959 when they implemented the people's verdict against him and expressed their will. At the time, the media accused the late Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Egypt of masterminding the attack and chose to forget the situation in Iraq to cover up this situation.

The Arabic affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY concluded by saying: The Husni regime and its media organs should carefully examine those who oppose this regime inside Egypt. They should not accuse anybody haphazardly. In the final analysis, the fate of he who betrayed Egypt, and the Arab nation, and failed to keep their pledges will receive further blows until he returns to his senses. Finally, we would like to say that we strongly deny and reject these accusations which do not reflect the Iraqis' noble traits and policy.

Paper Calls UN Resolution 'Insignificant'

JN1410170490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ strongly assails the United States for pressuring the UN Security Council [UNSC] into issuing an ineffective resolution that means nothing in real practice on the Zionist massacre in the holy al-Aqsa Mosque.

In its editorial today, the paper says that it is a shame for the UNSC to issue such an insignificant resolution on such a dastardly crime against the Palestinian Arab people and Islamic sanctities, particularly considering that such a resolution would open the doors wide for the Zionist gangs or any other hostile party allied with the Americans to perpetrate crimes and go unpunished. The paper adds that the issuance of this resolution, which will not further the aspirations of the Palestinian people, brings to mind the improvised and hasty manner in which the United States applied pressure to secure the issuance of anti-Iraq provisions within three hours in the absence of any real consultations and without bothering to know the Iraqi or Arab views on the Gulf events.

AL-'IRAQ affirms that the Arab blood spilled on the Jerusalem holy shrines is nothing when compared with Arab oil, for which the United States has massed its fleets as well as the fleets of its allies. The paper urges stepping up the struggle to enable the Palestinian Arab people to regain their rights in full by expelling the Zionist invaders from the lands of occupied Palestine and to bring to an end all forms of imperialist-Zionist hegemony in the Arab homeland and throughout the entire world.

'Sources' on Nationals Escaping Baghdad, Security

LD1310225490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] London, 13 Oct (SPA)—Sources well-informed about the internal situation in Iraq disclosed today that many Iraqi families have begun to leave Baghdad for northern Iraq out of fear of military operations following the Iraqi regime's obduracy and its refusal to heed the unanimous international call on it to withdraw from Kuwait.

A statement issued by the National Committee for the Salvation of Iraq said that "many Iraqis found themselves forced to sell their businesses in Baghdad very cheaply because of lack of business."

The statement spoke of unusual security measures which Saddam Husayn has been using to protect himself out of fear for his life from the popular wrath.

The statement quoted the national committees in the Iraqi Armed Forces as affirming that wrath was escalating within the Army, where Saddam Husayn has reinforced his intelligence elements and expanded the responsibilities of the Republican Guards and separated them from the Armed Forces and the headquarters of the General Staff. He has also gone as far as creating special forces directly attached to him within the Republican Guards.

The statement pointed out that Saddam Hussayn has issued an order dismissing the chief of the general staff, Gen. Nizar 'Abd al-Karim al-Khazraji, and appointed him to a formal post; he has not been seen in three weeks.

The statement said that all indications are that Saddam Husayn will dismiss Defense Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal and replace him with Husayn Kamil Majid, his son-in-law.

Saddam, 'Arafat Discuss Position on Al-Aqsa

JN1410103790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this morning received Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

During the meeting, they reviewed regional developments, particularly the Zionist massacre against our Arab people in occupied Jerusalem and the shameful international position which showed double standards when it tackled the issue—a matter that requires an awareness of this tendentious approach and consequently efforts to renew the struggle, maintain a link between regional problems, and make the Arabs and the international community give precedence to the Palestine question.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

'Aziz Leaves for Jordan With Message for King

JN1310092190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0914 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Amman today on a short working visit. He will convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

'Aziz To Discuss Jerusalem Incident in Rabat

JN1410194090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Morocco today to participate in the ministerial meeting of the al-Quds Committee scheduled to be held in Rabat tomorrow, Monday.

Participants will discuss the brutal massacre committed by the Zionist cliques against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people in the al-Haram al-Sharif [Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque].

Food Donated by Jordanian Companies Arrives

JN1410152890 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Oct 90 p 6

[Text] IRAQI NEWS AGENCY—A convoy of food donated by the Jordanian union of insurance companies has arrived in Iraq to help support Iraq in the face of the economic blockade imposed by U.S. and imperialist forces of evil.

The convoy included food and baby milk donated by the Jordanian union of insurance companies to the Iraqi children and people.

Cabinet Rejects Security Council Resolution

Text of Official Announcement

TA1510064390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Oct 90 p 2

["Official English translation" of the "announcement" that the cabinet, on 14 October, authorized to be communicated to the UN secretary general]

[Text] 1. We have read the text of Security Council resolution 672 and the statement of the president of the Security Council that was communicated in connection thereto. They are totally unacceptable to us.

2. A. The Security Council decision completely disregards the attack against Jewish worshippers on the holiday of Succot at the Western Wall, which is on the Temple Mount, the holiest site of the Jewish people, and does not condemn those who attacked the worshippers; this is a political decision with no connection to reality.

B. The State of Israel expressed its regret over the loss of life that occurred as a result of events on the Temple Mount, at a time when security forces were responsible for fulfilling their duties. Israel has also appointed an independent commission of inquiry into the chain of events, their causes and the actions of the security forces. The commission will present its conclusions and recommendations at the earliest possible date.

As is known, the State of Israel ensures complete freedom of religion in the holy sites of all religions, in accordance with the law. Never, in all the history of Jerusalem, has freedom of religion for all been guaranteed as it has been since the city was unified under Israeli sovereignty in 1967, and never has the city been more open to all.

3. Jerusalem is not, in any part, "occupied territory"; it is the sovereign capital of the State of Israel. Therefore, there is no room for any involvement on the part of the United Nations in any matter relating to Jerusalem, just as the United Nations does not intervene in events, some even more severe, that occur in other countries.

4. Given the above, Israel will not receive the delegation of the secretary-general of the United Nations.

5. Israel will continue to assume responsibility, in accordance with its laws, for the safeguarding of holy places and for the security of all residents of Jerusalem, Jews and Arabs, as in all other areas it controls.

Levi Explains Cabinet Decision

TA1410121390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1127 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, why is Israel rejecting the UN delegation?

[Levi] First of all, because this delegation was supposed to come here on the basis of a Security Council resolution that does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem; which states plainly—in a clarification added by the Security Council president—that Jerusalem is occupied territory; and, in fact, ignores the causes that led to the incident on the Temple Mount and the savage onslaught of rioters and inciters on Jews quietly praying on a sacred day at a sacred site. Israel allows freedom of worship and religion, and preserves sacred sites more than any other country.

The fact that the resolution overlooked the attackers, termed Jerusalem as occupied territory, and sent a delegation in accordance with such a definition, tasking it with providing recommendations and conclusions—all these indicate that their premise was that Jerusalem is not our legitimate capital and that our sovereignty over Jerusalem is being questioned. This is the reason why the government unanimously rejected the UN resolutions and refused to accept this delegation.

[Golan] In practical terms this means that three people—Jean Claude Aimee and his two assistants—will arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport and simply be refused entry into Israel.

[Levi] I do not know how or whether they will come. The Government of Israel has made a decision which is binding.

[Golan] Sir, there is the additional aspect to this—the relations with the United States. Has the cabinet considered a possibly harsh reaction to this step on the part of Washington?

[Levi] Certainly, but nothing can be done about it. No matter how very important our relations with the United States are to us—and I say again, very important—when the issue at stake, Jerusalem, is so crucial to us and to future generations, we cannot accept or ignore the unfortunate fact that the U.S. Administration has made a mistake; that the United States was led astray by that same coalition it had formed against Saddam Husayn. By surrendering to this resolution, the United States established linkage [preceding word in English] between the events in the Gulf and the Israeli- Arab conflict. In endorsing this resolution, it obviously ceded to those who were interested—and succeeded—in establishing that linkage, which the United States has so far rejected.

[Golan] Are we then in conflict with the United States, too?

[Levi] I hope there will be no conflict, I hope we will be able to persuade them. In any event, I know one thing: There are facts that Israel cannot accept and with which it cannot live: They concern Jerusalem. The status of Jerusalem, from the viewpoint of any Israeli Government, cannot be questioned. It is Israel's unified and sovereign capital.

[Golan] Even if we will possibly pay with damage to our international image; even if we and Saddam Husayn become the only two countries which do not accept Security Council resolutions?

[Levi] Look, first of all, you must not pronounce the two names in one breath.

[Golan] Yes, certainly.

[Levi] We were attacked, and this tragic event could have ended in many, many fatalities that could have included many defenseless Jews who had come to pray on a sacred day at a sacred site.

As to the delegation: The Security Council resolution was in fact a verdict; the Security Council ignored the facts and acted on the interests of its members, of that coalition, of the desire to form a force even if the price meant harming Israel. Israel cannot, absolutely cannot, accept such a conception or consciously agree to being the victim, the cost to be paid to all those who promised to team up with the United States in an anti-Saddam coalition.

In addition, there is in fact nothing to probe. The Security Council's resolution already contains a verdict. What those who had initiated the resolution really want, however, is to create here, in Jerusalem, a UN arm that will reach conclusions and make certain to introduce the concept of a possible need to station UN troops in Jerusalem. This is their ambition, stemming from a desire to protect Palestinians.

I want to point to a fresh fact: Something happened yesterday in Beirut, where 200 people were killed by the bombardment of the Syrian Air Force and Armored Forces. Will the Security Council intervene? No. But when something happens here, resolutions are made on the basis of dictums deriving from parties' interests, resolutions which totally ignore facts, and the cost is borne by Israel, by the Jews. We have to stand steadfast, fearlessly, no matter how difficult it is. We did not seek this situation, and the consequences will not be easy to bear, but the current anti-Israeli trend is the result of the acts of some elements who have been attempting to use Arab or Jewish blood to pave their way to the center of international debates. As in the past, Israel is the only country faced with this difficult situation, and although it is indeed tough, we will overcome.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, I thank you very much.

Further on Cabinet Resolution

TA1410123090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The cabinet has unanimously decided not to accept the delegation on behalf of the UN secretary general. The foreign minister explained that the delegation was to come here by virtue of a resolution that does not recognize our sovereignty over Jerusalem and ignores the causes for the incident on the Temple Mount: a wild attack by Arab rioters on Jewish worshipers. Accepting a delegation under these terms would spell acceptance of the ruling that Jerusalem is not our lawful capital and that our sovereignty over it is questionable. The Israeli Government unanimously rejects this. [passage omitted]

Several ministers told our correspondent after the cabinet session that the resolution to reject the UN delegation means that there will be no cooperation with it and that there will be no meetings with its members.

During the session, Minister Sharon said it is not enough to talk about rejecting the delegation, it is also necessary to stop it from coming. This proposal was defeated.

In the cabinet session, Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo reviewed the chain of events on the Temple Mount last Monday.

The Israeli UN delegation had recommended, after the Security Council debate, that Jerusalem accept the UN secretary general's delegation so as to avoid a confrontation with the United Nations and with the United States, which coauthored the resolution. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami was told that the recommendation said that it is better to accept the delegation on terms that will be dictated by the Israeli Government than to reject it out of hand because of the gravity of the outcome of such a move.

UN Said Trying To Dictate Jerusalem Security

TA1410164290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The UN delegation will probably come and yet we will not tell them what happened? What is the logic in that?

[Netanyahu] You have already decided it will come, but I would not rush to make such a statement.

[Shilon] That is, if it comes.

[Netanyahu] The Government of Israel does not want the delegation, it will not receive it, and the intention is for it not to come here. It is not an invitation to come, it is a decision not to come.

[Shilon] Okay, but you cannot stop them at the airport. You probably could, but would not want to. There is a possibility that they will arrive.

[Netanyahu] I would like to tell you something. That is a hypothetical question. In the past there were many calls by various UN bodies, including—once—the Security Council, to send delegations and envoys here. We refused to receive them and they did not come.

[Shilon] Nevertheless, there is some sort of contradiction here. The government's main anger is over the fact that Jerusalem, which is under Israeli sovereignty for eternity, is involved. Nevertheless, the foreign minister to whom you are deputizing several days ago signed in the

United States a document which provides the United States with a certain understanding that Jerusalem could become involved in a problem over the settling of people in the eastern part of the city. Are we therefore not slapping ourselves in the face?

[Netanyahu] First, I would not rush to accept your analysis. The issue will be discussed, and I am sure that was not the aim. Beyond that, this issue involves something much deeper and unequivocal. There is an attempt here by the United Nations, a foreign organization, to decide what police arrangements in Jerusalem were, who will patrol where, and whether or not we responded adequately. By the way, based on UN criteria, I do not know how secure the place would be if, God forbid, we had agreed to it. When hundreds of worshipers were slaughtered in Mecca nothing was done, when hundreds of worshipers were slaughtered in the Golden Temple in India nothing was done either. The intention in this case is political, that is clear, and it is hypocritical. The aim is to undermine Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, and we do not agree to that.

[Savir] Even at the cost of a very sharp confrontation with the United States? Perhaps, also, at the cost of sanctions in the next stage?

[Netanyahu] We are not looking for any confrontation; we do not want sanctions, but we must understand that if we start in that direction it will be very difficult to halt the slide. If there is a single lesson to be learned from the diplomacy of the new era it is that opposition to decisions that endanger you is much better than accepting them. It is good to oppose them early.

[Shilon] Nevertheless, the diplomacy of the new era links the United States with the USSR and Arab countries which were and still are—some of them, at least—declared enemies of Israel. With its decision today, Israel is in fact putting itself on the other side of the fence.

[Netanyahu] Look, there have been previous UN resolutions, many of which the United States was a partner to, which we did not accept, such as on the Golan Hieghts, settlements, etc. We did not accept them because our most important interests were at stake.

[Shilon] But at that time we were still considered a strategic asset of the United States in the Middle East.

[Netanyahu] I believe that any study of the current situation would lead to the same conclusion. In other words, to enter a confrontation now—not us, since we do not aspire to that—but those who want to maintain the coalition against Saddam Husayn, who want to direct international attention against Saddam Husayn, and to concentrate an effort against Iraq, which is obviously a U.S. objective, then that is certainly not served by a confrontation between Israel and the United Nations or the United States. That is not our aim.

[Shilon] But that is the outcome.

[Netanyahu] I am not sure about that. We certainly hope it will not be. The question is, of course, what does the United States expect from us. We were very, very disappointed with its position. We are not expected to stand by passively in the face of a rioting mob. We saw what happened to reserves soldier Amnon Pomerantz—he was torn to pieces [last month in Gaza]. In Jerusalem, the police operated against an incited mob which attacked Jews. There is clear-cut evidence about that. If we do not insist on the truth, if we do not insist on our rights, then who will stand up for them?

[Shilon] The bottom line is, you are talking about a downward slide, and I want to focus that slide on Israeli-U.S. relations. Is the decline becoming sharper?

[Netanyahu] I very much hope that we will reach an understanding with the United States. I heard Vice President Quayle a few moments ago say that there has not been a deterioration in relations and that there is no intention to open any front. I have paraphrased his remarks, but that was the message. That is certainly our position. I hope we will find a joint path to maintain the partnership between us, which is still a joint interest in the face of aggression in the Middle East.

Government May Send Inquiry Report to UN

TA1510065590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The United States has exhorted Israel to cooperate with the UN delegation, and to receive it accordingly, in order to put an end to the affair. Statements to this effect were included in U.S. Secretary of State Baker's letter to his Israeli counterpart David Levi.

Israel is interested in postponing the delegation's arrival until the commission of inquiry set up to investigate the Temple Mount incident concludes its work. The commission's conclusions may then possibly be turned over to the UN delegation.

Plans To Boost Jerusalem's Immigrant Absorption

TA1410182790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The Ministerial Committee on Aliyah today decided to strengthen Jerusalem's status as an immigrant-absorbing city. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports from the broadcasting van outside the Prime Minister's Office, where that forum held its meeting:

[Ben-Melekh] One day after the UN Security Council resolution on Jerusalem, the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah, which met at the Prime Minister's Office, decided to strengthen Jerusalem's status and turn it into a truly immigrant-absorbing city, certainly much more so compared to its past record. Among the decisions passed today was one on the construction in Jerusalem of 5,000 housing units per annum for both new and veteran immigrants. Additionally, eight new sites will be slated as venues for residential neighborhoods for immigrants.

The city will be given the status of Class-A development town, which will permit it to offer larger mortgages, and will likewise make it possible for contractors to receive 100- percent guarantees for apartment purchases.

Mayor Teddy Kollek and Ari'el Sharon will together launch a campaign to sell Jerusalem apartments to U.S. and world Jews to be rented later to new immigrants.

Naturally, the political aspect featured prominently in today's session. After the meeting, we asked Minister Ari'el Sharon, who heads the committee, whether the Israeli Government had made any pledge not to build for or absorb new immigrants in Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] The only commitment the cabinet has made was not to initiate the settling of USSR Jews in Judaea and Samaria. The cabinet has never made a similar commitment with respect to Jerusalem. Moreover, the cabinet and I used every opportunity to reiterate that great effort will be made to settle Jews in Jerusalem. This is Israel's capital. No green line traverses Jerusalem. There is only one thing in Jerusalem: that it has been the Jewish people's capital for 3,000 years, and Israel's capital.

[Ben-Melekh] Mr. Sharon, were the resolutions you adopted today intended to counterbalance current developments in the United Nations and in the United States regarding Jerusalem?

[Sharon] They were not meant as the negation of any specific resolutions, but as an affirmation of the resolve to settle Jews in Jerusalem. In regard to Jerusalem, we are guided by only one principle: This has been the capital of the Jewish people for the past 3,000 years, and this is stronger than any resolution of any institution anywhere in the world. [end recording]

Incidentally, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek expressed his opinion that the pledge Foreign Minister David Levi gave harms Jerusalem and conflicts and detrimentally affects commitments made by President Bush during conversations with the Jerusalem mayor that the city is united and not partitioned or divided.

U.S.-Syria Alliance Eased Moves in Lebanon

TA1310203990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by anchorman David Witzthum and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari, in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ya'ari] Mr. Lubrani, the Syrians today broke one of the Israeli red lines dating back to 1976 with respect to the use of aircraft against Christian targets in Lebanon. What is your reaction to that?

[Lubrani] The Syrians are very familiar with Israel's red lines. I do not think they broke any of them. It is true that they deployed aircraft, but I think that from a broader outlook this force was used to effect something in Lebanon. We firmly adhere to our position that anything that is unrelated to our security or the well-being of our northern border does not require our intervention and does not call for any act on our part that might be construed as interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

[Ya'ari] 'Awn sought our help, but we did not give it to him. Do you believe we can maintain the security strip in southern Lebanon even without that administration or that adversary [as heard] in the north?

[Lubrani] There is no doubt in my mind that we will be able to maintain whatever exists in the security zone. We run there an entire infrastructure whose sole objective is to guarantee safety on both sides of the border. We also do things to improve the populace's welfare and are trying to make sure it comprehends these moves as intended for their well-being and safety.

[Witzthum] Mr. Lubrani, in the broader perspective, do you see any connection between the Gulf crisis and the current events in Lebanon?

[Lubrani] There is no doubt that the Syrians felt a lot freer to use force inside Lebanon, knowing that they have an alliance with the United States. Rumor in Lebanon has it that what happened, or what is currently happening, was sanctioned by the United States, or that it at least met with a nodding approval in the United States. I do not know if this true, but in any case I believe the very fact that there is a Syrian-U.S. dialogue on the Gulf helped push the Syrians to do what they did today.

[Witzthum] Mr. Lubrani, thank you very much.

Government Decision To Deport Egyptians Reported

NC1410131590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that Jordan has decided to deport around 70,000 Egyptians who do not have work permits from among the 90,000 Egyptians residing in Jordan.

MENA also learned that Jordan has decided to impose a $300 fine on any Egyptian residing in the country who does not have a work permit, in addition to forcibly deporting him. Jordanian authorities had deported around 50,000 Egyptians between the end of June and the end of September this year for not carrying work permits.

Source Denies Report of Secret Saddam Visit

JN1410191890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] An official source has told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that the AFP report from Amman stating today that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn paid a secret visit to Jordan is untrue. It is noteworthy that the agency, reporting on the Gulf crisis, cited an Arab diplomatic source in Amman as saying that his excellency the Iraqi president had paid a secret visit to Jordan.

Tariq 'Aziz Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement

JN1310143690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Remarks by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz upon arrival in Amman on 13 October—recorded]

[Text] This visit falls within the framework of the continued consultations between the two fraternal countries and between His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his brother His Majesty King Husayn. We always exchange views, information, and analyses about the situation. My visit falls within this framework. I am happy to be here in Amman once again. It is difficult to speculate now or to reach final conclusions about the situation in the region. However, it is clear that the scenarios that were initially prepared by the United States and its allies have come into collision with the basic facts, especially Iraqi power and Iraqi firmness in the face of confrontation, and the determination of its people, Armed Forces, and leadership not to cede national and pan-Arab rights. There is another important and significant fact. It is the fact that the Arab masses are vigilant and aware of the true situation. These masses realize that the 2 August events are closely linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the Arab nation's struggle to terminate imperialist hegemony over politics and pan-Arab wealth. This awareness, as reflected by the masses and national and responsible leaderships, is a basic and major fact, which must be taken into consideration by those who have prepared the scenarios.

We can say that the current stage is one of revision and reconsideration of plans and orientations. However, we must not be deluded. The aggressive intentions of the United States and the Zionist entity, and the aggressive intentions expressed by some Western circles—for example, British statements and the statements of Mrs. Thatcher and her foreign secretary—all these intentions are moving toward aggression against the Arab nation. However, at the same time, some international quarters realize the dangers posed to them and to their allies in the region. This makes them reconsider. At any rate, regardless of the intentions—some of which are probably good, and we welcome them—we welcome this development because the Arab nation's basic objective is peace, and Iraq is part of its nation. We have called and continue to call for peace—a just, comprehensive peace—that maintains rights and removes the root of the crisis—the basic problem that has made this region suffer decades of crises, tensions, and disparity in military power, security, and wealth. This is our wish and this is our call. If certain powers, or all the big powers, want to act fairly and justly to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, we will be the first to work for peace. But if they choose aggression and injustice, as they have been doing so far, our national and pan-Arab duty requires that we continue struggle until we have reaffirmed our existence as a nation and achieved our legitimate objectives.

Calls UN Resolution 'Shame'

JN1310133590 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman today for talks on the Gulf crisis. Mr. 'Aziz, who last visited Amman on September 29, will meet His Majesty King Husayn and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim. On his arrival in Amman, Mr. 'Aziz made the following statement:

[Begin recording] ['Aziz] Well, the last resolution of the Security Council is another example of the double standards which the United States and its allies have been using vis-a-vis the situation in this region. After the events of second of August, a few hours after those events, and without even knowing what was going on and what were the intentions behind those events, the United States and allies jumped in a few hours to Chapter Seven, and made one of the strongest resolutions in the history of the Security Council. For five days after the massacre of the Arab, the Palestinians, in al-Quds [Jerusalem], the United States was discussing, maneuvering, blocking their attempts to take one of the modest resolutions which was proposed by the non-aligned group. And then, later on, after five days of maneuvering and pressure—flagrant pressure—on the members of the Council, we saw this last resolution, which is a shame to the United Nations and to the Security Council, and to those were behind such a resolution. [sentence as heard] This strengthens the correct interior impression of the Arab people that our blood is less important to the United States and its allies than the oil they would like to hold on. And this is another example of the double standards of the selective approach of the big powers against the Arabs. So it is time for the Arab people and for all honest people in the world to realize this fact, and to deal with those powers who are dominating the Security Council in a proper manner, and ask them, strongly, without any hesitation, that they should implement international law fairly on the same basis, on the same standards which they have been resorting whenever their interests—and illegitimate interests—were at stake.

[Unidentified reporter] Your finance minister requested Iraq's assets [words indistinct]. Is that an indication that the embargo is working?

['Aziz] Well, the unjust sanctions that have been taken against Iraq have their implications—sure they have their implications—but those powers who were behind sanctions wanted those sanctions and the embargo to squeeze Iraq and to cut the position, the resolution of the Iraqi people for resistance. They are wrong. The Iraqi people are the one of the most ancient nations and peoples in the world. It has survived for 5,000 years. It has survived wars and a lot of hard situations in the past. And it has survived and we will survive. We will survive. We are not going to kneel under the pressure of the big powers.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

['Aziz] Well, I said that in my answer in Arabic; it is a visit to exchange views with our brothers in Jordan. I would say it is a routine visit. We usually exchange views and information about the current situation.

[Unidentified reporter] Why not just pick up the telephone?

['Aziz] I beg your pardon?

[Reporter] Why not just pick up the telephone?

['Aziz] Well, there are different means of exchanging views. Sometimes we use the telephone, sometimes we use messages, sometimes we come—and we enjoy coming to visit. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Meets With King Husayn

JN1310152190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the al-Nadwah Palace at noon today Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed to his majesty an oral message from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. During the meeting, they reviewed Arab and international efforts to reach a political settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Leaves Amman 13 Oct

JN1310164890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Iraq began a new political move today to explain its stand on developments in the Gulf crisis and to discuss recent developments in the region. Within this framework, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Amman today. [passage omitted]

'Aziz left Amman today. In a statement to the press before departure, 'Aziz said that, during his meeting with his majesty the king today, he conveyed to him an oral message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, including his greetings to his majesty and to the fraternal Jordanian people. He added: The message also dealt with the developments in the situation in the region. Opinions were exchanged, in a fraternal spirit that characterizes Jordanian-Iraqi relations, about the situation in the region and related developments.

He said: His Majesty King Husayn asked me to convey his fraternal greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his good wishes to the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

King Cables Mubarak on Speaker's Assassination

JN1210143090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has addressed the following cable to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, offering his condolences over the death of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

Brother President Husni Mubarak—may God protect him—Cairo:

With deep sorrow and pain, I have received the report of the sinful incident whose victim was Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. The deceased was, as I knew him, a scholar and a statesman. He was loyal to his homeland and people. I offer you my warm condolences, and I pray to God to bestow His mercy and blessings on the deceased, and grant you, his family, and colleagues, patience and solace. To God we are and unto Him we shall return.

Assassination Reveals 'Flimsy' Democracy in Egypt

JN1310095090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 22

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "Dr. Mahjub's Murder"]

[Text] Regardless of the party behind the assassination of Egyptian People's Assembly speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, the assassination in itself remains the important issue. Speculation over this political assassination is limitless. Some tend to link this incident with a similar one almost a month ago, in which the victim was a member of the Islamic reform movement [founded by Muhammad 'Abduh] in Egypt. At the time, fingers pointed at the official security apparatus. Others believe the cause to be the campaigns exchanged between the man [Al-Mahjub] and the Egyptian opposition. Those who hold this opinion see that the timing of the assassination, on the second day of the referendum on dissolving the People's Assembly and before actual preparation for the coming elelctions, is an issue having political indications which reflect anger at the fact that the People's Assembly had placated the Egyptian Government, and an attempt to strike at the influence of the ruling party through the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub, one of its eminent figures. There is a third side that links the assassination to what the Egyptian authorities announced last week regarding arresting groups of a Palestinian faction and accusing them of entering Egypt to disrupt the regime through such actions. Those who hold this opinion believe that those groups which were not arrested are the ones who carried out this incident.

Regardless how close these speculations are to the truth or to the process of elucidating it, they certainly are accurate indications of anger. They also reveal the gap between the people and the regime, and exposes the flimsy claims of democracy when democracy is incomplete and when the government or the ruling party act in an discreditable manner as viewed by the masses. Then, bullets are the only means for dialogue.

How can we imagine that Arab Egypt's position on the ugly Israeli massacre at al-Aqsa is as we hear it is, and that Egypt is content only to criticize Israel for not respecting the holy sites, and that as of now, it refuses to participate in a meeting called by the PLO within the framework of the Arab League at the level of foreign ministers? Could it be possible that Egypt sides with the United States against Iraq, the Arab power which has never hesitated to side with any Arab in need, among which is Egypt?

In this column we have repeatedly warned that the Arab region will be hit by an earthquake if some Arab regimes persist in their current positions. We still hold this opinion. We still see that any adverse development in the region brings it closer and closer to an earthquake.

When King Faruq sent Egypt's army in 1948 to defend the Arabism of Palestine, he could have bartered such a stand with another one that pleased the Americans. How can today's Egypt, the leadership of today's Egypt, combine its alliance with the United States with the U.S. refusal at the Security Council to form an international committee to protect Palestinians and prevent the recurrence of the al-Aqsa mosque massacre?

We certainly do not believe in political assassinations, but all indications prove that the crooked Arab regimes have not given their peoples a normal way to respond to their crookedness. Blood does not turn into water. We hope that the assassination of the Egyptian People's Assembly speaker will serve as a warning to many of our leaders on the depth of the abyss—at whose brink they are standing.

Minister Calls UN Resolution 'Good Beginning'

JN1310202690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the UN Security Council resolution regarding the situation in the occupied territories is considered a good beginning, however, we should continue to be alert and cautious so as to benefit from the UN Security Council's action on the region's issues during the past few weeks. Replying to a question by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our correspondent for political affairs, at the airport following the Iraqi foreign minister's departure, al-Qasim added:

[Begin recording] [Al-Qasim] Of course, this is the first time we have seen Israel denounced since 1982, and, if we look at the long time the UN Security Council has taken to reach this resolution, we see there is a slowness in its dealings. However, this is better than it was in the past, particularly regarding various positions. We believe that an overall view of this region and the major issues that have faced and are facing it, should be based on a common standard so that a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved in this region. I believe that this is a good beginning. However, we should continue to be alert and cautious to benefit from what we saw during the past few weeks regarding the UN Security Council dealings on the issues concerning us in this region.

[Dhiyab] Will the results or the recommendations of the mission that will go to the occupied territories be binding on the UN Security Council?

[Al-Qasim] In the past, we had two cases when two UN secretary general's envoys were dispatched to the occupied territories; the first envoy was ambassador Goulding. When he returned and submitted his report on the situation in the occupied territories, discussion of this report on the UN Security Council level was rejected. The second case, when Jean-Claude Aime was dispatched as the UN secretary general's envoy, he was not allowed to submit such a report. In this case, we hope there will be an objective report on the situation in the occupied territories, particularly regarding what took place in Jerusalem last week. This report must be discussed by the UN Security Council in cooperation with the UN secretary general. If this is to be the case, then we believe that the standards that we have always hoped for regarding Arab issues will begin to form an objective and sound approach. [end recording]

UN Resolution 'New Opening' for Palestine Issue

JN1410122490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "New But Lacking"]

[Text] The consensus resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council Friday is a compromise reached between the international community and the U.S. which had insisted on watering down the reaction of the council to the recent massacre of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli occupying forces. Still the resolution offers a new opening to the Palestinian question and is a dramatic departure from earlier resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The fact that the fact-finding mission is expected to report back to the council on measures to extend safety and protection to the Palestinian people under occupation is a remarkable step in the right direction although the language on the specific mandate of the mission was not incorporated in the resolution itself but rather in a statement read out by the president of the council. There has been fear that the fate of the mission would be similar to that of a 1987 fact-finding group sent by the U.N. secretary general to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to investigate the situation there at that time. The findings of that group were filed never to be discussed or reviewed again. No wonder the majority of the members of the Security Council wanted stronger language about the new mandate and to have such a mission undertaken by the council itself rather than the secretary general.

In the final analysis, what matters is the willingness of the world community to act on the findings whether they are a feature of the Security Council or the office of the secretary general. But judging by the length of time the council took to come up with the watered down resolution, it is doubtful that some important members of the U.N. can or will be willing to deal effectively with the Palestinian problem at a later stage. Washington in particular has indicated that once Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, the Security Council would hasten to implement U.N. resolutions on the Palestinian question. However, the record of the U.S. during the past five days' deliberations in New York dampens all hopes that the Bush administration has the intentions and the resolve to deal with the Palestinian issue as effectively and urgently as the Gulf crisis. Washington's objections to the incorporation of sufficient language in the draft resolution, according the Palestinians and the Islamic and Christian sites adequate U.N. protection, gives a clear signal that U.S. policies in the Near East remain biased, or vague at best. What adds insult to injury is the arm twisting that the Americans had also applied on their allies in a bid to make them deviate from earlier positions they had adopted.

In my case, having chosen a compromise resolution between right and wrong the U.N. Security Council has put on the line its own credibility as an even-handed international body capable of taking principled decisions on matters that affect peace and security in the world. Whether the council has gambled and lost or gambled and won would largely depend on how it will deal with the findings of the secretary general's mission.

Paper Says U.S. Disrupted UN Security Council

JN1410104790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Inadequate Resolution"]

[Text] Finally, the UN Security Council resolution was issued. It was less than it should have been. After long days of haggling, maneuvering, and direct threats of using the veto, the United States succeeded in passing its special plan in the UN Security Council lobbies. It eventually succeeded in preventing the Council from playing a major role with regard to the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories in terms of international intervention to provide sufficient legitimate protection for the defenseless Palestinian people.

Although the United States attempted to find a way out of world embarrassment by pleasing some Arabs and abstaining to vote [as published] on the resolution condemning Israel, it practiced political and diplomatic pressure on all heads of member states of the Security Council so that the resolution adopted would not fulfill the Palestinian Arab demands and the Security Council would remain incapable of tackling the series of Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people.

Best proof of all this is the U.S. insistence to prevent the Security Council from playing any important role in the future and from dispatching a fact-finding mission to study the conditions and suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation or discuss the Palestine question. This is a prelude to depriving this Council of any influential international role in the future with regard to settling the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We would like to put on record that despite its abstention to use the veto and its claims of being neutral, the United States has shown obvious bias toward the Israeli side, whether through procrastination and hesitation, or evasion and postponement, which led to a lukewarm UN Security Council resolution, or through disrupting the mechanism of the Council which, only a few weeks ago, had worked rapidly against Iraq.

What further exposes the U.S. role is that the Security Council resolution, which was drafted by President Bush's administration, avoided reference to placing the Palestinians under international protection. It also failed to closely examine the Palestine question since it is an issue which requires a comprehensive political solution and not tackling of an urgent security situation.

In conclusion, the U.S. decision not to use the veto this time and its joining with the international consensus in condemning Israel's terrible violations of human rights in the occupied territories, have had a big political price, represented in disrupting the UN Security Council mechanisms and by the issue of who would dispatch the international fact-finding commission, and even more so the tasks assigned to this commission, its scope of work, not to mention the side that will look into the commission's findings and the mechanism for carrying out the commission's recommendations before the end of the month.

Badran, UN Envoy Discuss Resolutions' Impact

JN1310194290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 13 Oct (PETRA)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office today Jean-Robert Simonise, the UN secretary general's representative and envoy to learn about the damage caused to Jordan as a result of its commitment to UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

The prime minister briefed the UN secretary general's envoy on the effects on Jordan as a result of its implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 661 and 667 in terms of grave damage to Jordan's economy in all fields, whether in foreign trade, including imports and exports, or the obstruction of production in the industrial, trade, and transport sectors; and the long- and short-term effects of this on Jordan's economy.

Mr. Simonise stressed that he will convey to the UN secretary general his assessment of Jordan's economic losses so as to expedite the payment of compensation to Jordan as a result of its commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions, and to urge states that expressed their readiness to do so to compensate others for the losses resulting from implementing the UN Security Council resolutions imposing economic sanctions against Iraq.

Attending the meeting were Basil Jardanah, finance minister, Dr. Ziyad Fariz, industry and trade minister, and 'Ali 'Atiqah, resident representative of the UN development program in the Kingdom.

Paper Condemns Hurd's 'Colonialist' Statements

JN1510110390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Oct 90 p 1, 16

[Editorial: "Douglas Hurd and the Loss of Balance"]

[Text] Certainly Douglas Hurd was not in full mental control when speaking yesterday. The British secretary did not stop at threats and warnings, but went so far as to ask us not to follow any lessons in morality and humanity except from Britain, the one with the ugly black history in all that has to do with people's struggle against oppression, injustice, and terrorism, which the British Empire represented for many centuries and which left the ugly image Douglas Hurd is trying to represent now in the hearts of the Arabs, Muslims, and many other peoples.

The British secretary appeared yesterday carrying his wooden sword and exposing the claws and teeth of the crumbled empire, and extending his trembling fingers in a desperate attempt to choke the angry, bellowing, and provoked Arab and Islamic necks. He has created much more scorn than fear in the hearts of the Arabs and Muslims whilst threatening and promising, ranting and raving. We saw in him the image of the British lion fatigued by old age and fear who has ended up in a dejected corner of Europe before German unity, French independence, and the approach of 1992—the year when the United Kingdom will become a third-class country.

The image of the British high commissioner, who treated the people within his high commission as slaves or a herd of cattle in front of the British soldiers, was before us yesterday and pushed us to imagine the situation the Arabs and Muslims would be in if the colonialist whims are realized. It would strike Iraq's rise, independent decision-making, and military power. Hurd now speaks this language and uses this colonialist logic whilst Iraq still controls its full force, holds all the cards of the crisis, and is the one confronting the largest official economic and political siege any country has been subjected to. Despite all this, the British secretary was not in the least embarrassed by standing in the heart of the largest Arab capital, stating all that he did, and directing all these threats and warnings not to Iraq alone, but to all the potential it represents in confronting the enemies and oppression, and breaking the thorn of colonialist alliances.

Hurd affirmed that his children should not be destined to live in a world where tyrannical forces are defying the law and scorning decent standards of behavior. Perhaps this is what the Arabs and Muslims are saying, while seeing the tyrannical forces trying to insult them, and seeing the colonialist measures wanting to take them back to the age of colonies, protectorates, oppression, and monopoly which our homeland had a very large share of, especially from Britain. Hurd's talk about moral standards is something that should not be uttered by him or his American allies. The last thing the British secretary should talk about is morality, human values, and the rights of people. We agree with Hurd that the price is very high and we have to win this war. It is our holy war, Mr. Secretary, the war of God against the devil, the war of good against evil, and the war of the Arabs and Muslims against the new crusade; it is our holy war which we will wage in every corner of the earth so that we do not go back to being herds of cattle or slaves.

There remains for us to say that Douglas Hurd's statements do not express responsibility and do not proceed from awareness. They are merely a reflection of the loss of balance that has governed British policy since the end of the Iraq-Iran war. Above all, it has become filled with a great many fake stands, especially as regards the Palestine question which, in the first place, is the result of a British crime which the Arabs and Muslims will never forgive Britain for having committed.

In addition, Hurd's statements are a true and honest expression of the extent of disregard for this nation, scorn toward its people, and rejection that it become an honest and dignified nation. The Arab masses will know how to respond to this scorn and disregard. We wonder about that official Arab stand which applauds Hurd and deludes itself into thinking that his wooden sword can shake one palm tree in Iraq and the nation.

60,000 Attend Pro-Palestinian Islamic Rally

JN1210213490 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Over 60 thousand Jordanians joined a rally in Amman this evening to express support for Palestinians under the Israeli occupation. The rally was organized by the Islamic committees.

Speakers at the rally, including a number of deputies, hailed the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation and the steadfastness of the Palestinian population. They said the massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem made Palestine united, with the anti-Israeli protests staged in Arab towns and villages in Israel.

The speakers stressed the importance of the national unity and efforts to pool resources in face of challenges. Speakers said the Palestine question is an Islamic cause and the liberation of Palestine is an Arab and Islamic responsibility.

Earlier today, members of women's federations in Jordan staged a sit-in near the Red Cross offices in Amman in solidarity with Palestinians under Israeli occupation. Representatives of the women's federation later handed a memorandum to the Red Cross chief denouncing the Israeli crimes.

Families of Al-Aqsa Victims To Receive Allowance

JN1410211090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 14 Oct (PETRA)—The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has decided to pay monthly allowances to the families of the martyrs who died while defending the holy al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem Monday.

Awqaf Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir said the move is part of the Jordanian Government's policy, pursued upon the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn since the blessed intifadah erupted, of paying monthly salaries to the families of people who are martyred in defense of their sanctities and lands.

He said the Ministry, through the al-Zakat Fund, pays an average of 50 Jordanian dinars per month to the family of the single martyr and 85 dinars to the family of the married martyr. The Ministry pays a total of 40,000 dinars monthly to 900 families, he added.

The minister said that a committee named the Islamic Committee for the Support of Palestinians has been set up to provide assistance to societies and committees in the occupied territories with a view to enhancing the steadfastness of the kinfolk there.

Defense Ministry Asks for 'Awn's Surrender

NC1310052290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Statement by National Defense Ministry; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Following a contact by the former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn with the French Ambassador Rene Ala, the French ambassador contacted His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and informed him that Gen. 'Awn is asking for a cease-fire. The Defense Ministry requests, in the name of the president of the republic, that Gen. 'Awn announce through the information media his readiness to surrender the centers of legitimacy to Commander Emile Lahhud immediately.

[At 0509 GMT on 13 October, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic adds, "We received a report a short while ago that the Lebanese Army led by General Emile Lahhud has entered the al-Matn areas via the Monte Verde crossing point. In the meantime, bombardment is continuing on most areas of the two al-Matn regions.

"We would like to remind you that General 'Awn proceeded to the French Embassy building in al-Hazimiyah and asked for a cease-fire. However, the government sources have asked 'Awn to proceed to the Defense Ministry to declare his surrender to the legitimate government."]

Government Sets Surrender Terms

NC1310054490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0527 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has just learned that, following a telephone call received by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the Defense Ministry from French Ambassador Rene Ala regarding the request for a cease-fire made by General Michel 'Awn, Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur set the following terrms for Gen. 'Awn's surrender:

1. The request for the cease-fire should come from Gen. 'Awn personally and in his own voice.

2. Gen. 'Awn should declare personally and in his own voice his readiness to surrender all his military strongpoints to the legitimate authority and the submission of all the forces under his authority to Army Commander Gen. Emile Lahhud, without conditions.

'Awn Announces Surrender

NC1310065190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0638 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] In brief words, Michel 'Awn ended in moments two years of suffering. He is the one who once said: We launched against you the war of abolition, which was abolished today. Let us listen to him in his own words over his radio reading the document of surrender. What did Michel 'Awn say in his own voice moments ago over the so-called Lebanese radio:

[Begin recording] In view of the current combat and political circumstances, and to avoid bloodshed, reduce damage, and save what remains, I ask the Army general staff command to receive orders from General Emile Lahhud. [end recording]

Deputy Chief of Staff Surrenders

NC1310073990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0725 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Brigadier General Jean Farah, the deputy chief of staff for operations of General 'Awn's command, has contacted Army Commander Gen. Emile Lahhud, announcing that he is placing himself at the disposal of the legitimate command.

At the request of Gen. 'Awn, Brig. Gen. Farah called on the Army units operating under 'Awn's orders to place themselves at the disposal of Commander Lahhud.

Meanwhile, exchanges of fire are continuing on some combat lines. Gen. Lahhud's forces are advancing to take over military positions on some of the contact lines.

[At 0730 GMT, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic also reports Farah's surrender to the "legitimate command" and adds that "Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss will address the Lebanese people soon."]

Units Join Legitimate Command

NC1310095590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpts] According to the latest security reports, Army units under the command of General Emile Lahhud have arrived at B'abdat Square and Duhur Brummanah. Other units are moving toward B'abda Palace.

Major Jean Sallum, Officer Nabil al-Zayn, and another officer from the al-Halabi family have joined the Army command. Negotations are taking place between the pro-'Awn commandos in Bharsaf barracks and Gen. Lahhud's units in order to arrange for their surrender. Some 21 soldiers from the Republican Guard have surrendered. The commando company in Brummanah and the 93d battalion in Hayy al- Amirikan have joined the legitimate command. Gen. Lahhud has asked the Army units of the 5th brigade on the al-Qulay'at-Darayya front, who have declared their loyalty to legitimacy, to join the Sarba barracks. [passage ommitted]

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes are taking place on the combat lines of the Southern Suburb. The Army is advancing to take over the military positions in Suq al-Gharb.

As a result of the indiscriminate shelling of the Kasrawan coast this morning by the 'Awn troops, Mansur al-Jumayyil was killed in the Ju'ayta area. Al-Sahil Hospital in the Southern Suburb reported that three people were killed. The body of 'Alya' Mu'awwad was removed to al-Maqasid hospital.

We have just learned that Lieutenant Colonel Raja Samahah, commander of the republic guard, has joined Gen. Emile Lahhud's command.

Resistance Reported

NC1310090490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0818 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Some pro-'Awn military pockets are still directing artillery and rocket fire to cover their retreat on some of the combat lines in the al-Matn region.

Meanwhile, military units of Army Commander Gen. Emile Lahhud have arrived at B'abdat Square. Other units are moving toward B'abda Palace.

The 52nd battalion deployed in the al-Qulay'at area has announced its loyalty to the army command.

Army units advanced on the Galerie Sim'an and Hayy al-Amirikan lines and are continuing their advance along Camille Sham'un Boulevard.

The army units deployed in the al-Masalih and the military hospital in Beirut have announced they will abide by the orders of Commander Lahhud. The command asked them to remain in their positions and to await new orders. It has become clear that communications difficulties between the al-Matn region and the Lahhud command have delayed the announcement by the units in this region that they are joining the legitimate military command.

Pro-'Awn troops in the al-'Adliyah, al-Tibbiyah, and Public Security Building areas have surrendered to the army command without a fight.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0835 GMT 13 Oct 90 "According to the most recent military information, Lebanese Army units led by General Emile Lahhud continue to advance toward the B'abda Presidential Palace and the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah. The military operation is almost finished and an official announcement to this effect will be read when General Emile Lahhud arrives at the Defense Ministry building.

"Meanwhile, units of the 5th Brigade deployed in Kasrawan, al- Qulay'at, and Darayya have declared allegiance to the legitimate command. Army units continue to advance to meet their comrades-in- arms who continue to declare their allegiance to Gen. Lahhud.

"Contacts are under way between the command and military units deployed in the two al-Matn regions to coordinate efforts. All units, who have declared allegiance to the legitimacy, are to remain in their positions and receive orders from Gen. Lahhud's command."]

French Sources Comment

NC1310075390 Paris AFP in English 0744 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 13 (AFP) - General Michel 'Awn, whose forces had defied Lebanese presidential authority for nearly a year, announced his surrender early Saturday after Syrian and Lebanese army units attacked his east Beirut stronghold. [passage omitted]

But shelling of 'Awn positions was reported to be continuing in some parts of east Beirut half an hour after the announcement of the surrender.

Military sources said 'Awn forces around the B'abda presidential palace, which the general had been occupying as part of his rebellion, put up only limited resistance to the dawn attack.

Syrian and Lebanese planes bombed the palace and the nearby defense ministry building as artillery units opened fire, sending residents scurrying for cover.

Gen. 'Awn and several of his officers fled to the French embassy, where his presence was confirmed by embassy sources at 9:25 a.m. (0625 GMT) and from where the surrender was announced.

French sources said the general's family, his wife and three daughters, were not with him at the embassy, adding that there were no immediate plans for his evacuation.

News of Gen. 'Awn's capitulation prompted gunmen in mainly Moslem, Syrian-controlled west Beirut to fire in the air in celebration.

B'abda Palace Falls; Army Defense Ministry

NC1310094290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0928 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] B'abda Palace has fallen to the Lebanese legitimacy. The Information Department in the Military Room of the Defense Ministry has released the following statement: After the rebellion against the legitimacy has been crushed and former Army Commander Michel 'Awn taken refuge in the French Embassy, the Army Command has issued orders to the independent brigades, regiments, and units to continue the advance on the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah and to all legitimacy posts to take them over in order to consecrate the army's unity and to extend the state's authority. Meanwhile, all military units have placed themselves at the disposal of Army Commander General Lahhud. The army command has warned the disaffected parties attempting to obstruct the units' advance that the response to this will be violent.

[At 0918 GMT, (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon adds, "We have just been informed that the Hotel Kamil area has fallen to the 11th Brigade units. Meanwhile, fighting is currently taking place in Wadi Shahrur. The legitimate forces have managed to enter Bsaba.

"According to preliminary reports, seven people have been killed and well over 40 others wounded in the artillery bombardment. "]

Army Command Addresses Eastern Area Citizens

NC1310070990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0627 GMT 13 Oct 90

["Text" of address by the Army Command to the military and citizens in the Eastern area—read by announcer]

[Text] O citizens, O military, your Army is coming to protect you from all dangers threatening you. Your Army is coming to remove fear and anxiety from your souls. Your Army today has become responsible for your lives, security, and dignity. The Army will not allow the militias or others to threaten you or to tamper with your security from now on. He who frightens you about the militias today forgot that he himself contributed to the establishment and training of these militias and allied himself with them. Let it be known that your unified Army is a safeguard against the militias, and that it will strike hard at anyone seeking to encroach on you.

O military, O citizens, today you have become a trust in our hands. We will not abandon any one of you. We are your guarantee. Do not fear your fate. Place your hands in ours to preserve Lebanon. Long live Lebanon.

Al-Hirawi Speech Calls for Unity and Stability

NC1310120090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to the Lebanese people on 13 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] O Lebanese men and women: When I pledged to you in my constitutional oath to safeguard the unity of the state, people, and institutions, I appealed to all Lebanese to rally around the president of the republic and to join the march of salvation, reconciliation, and peace so Lebanon's security, stability, and prosperity could be restored. When I told you that legitimacy has a place for all and is needed by all, I was aware that the country no longer could tolerate the continuation of the crisis, which went on for too long and caused the gravest damage and losses to Lebanon and the Lebanese people. I was also aware that the call of reason and conscience will eventually triumph by sparing the people further trouble, pain, and sacrifices.

We have called for peace and have been honest in our call. We have made repeated calls in an attempt to give peaceful solutions a chance. We maintained patience until we became tired. When intransigence, obstinacy, and haughtiness continued, gaining the support of some people, it was necessary to make a decision to resolve the situation after the danger which threatened the entity of the state, the unity of the people, and the fate of the homeland increased.

In my address to the Lebanese people when I signed the constitutional amendments, I urged the military personnel to unite their ranks, to safeguard the military institution, and to come under their legitimate command to save Lebanon so we would not have to be forced to make the difficult decision to resort to an inevitable surgical military operation. The decision was difficult, but it was necessary. Even after adopting the decision to resolve the situation, we kept the door open for peace until the last moment. We drew attention to the need to avoid the greatest possible degree of dangers and damage.

The military operation was completed quickly. During the operation, the forces of Lebanese legitimacy, with the helpful support of the fraternal Syrian Arab forces, carried out their sacred duty to defend the state and its institutions, to restore the unity of the army and the people, and to restore normal life in the country.

O Lebanese, I call upon all of you, especially the military men, to marshal your ranks, rise above hatreds and grudges, and unite in one national march that will inevitably lead Lebanon to peace, security, and stability. The republic will thus witness a new dawn entitled to sovereignty and justice, all stages of imposing the state's authority on Lebanese territory will be completed successively, and no authority willl exist except the state's authority and no sovereignty except the sovereignty of the law.

Lebanon today needs each one of you; you also need an able and just state. So be with Lebanon so that Lebanon will be for you and with you and so that it will triumph through you and so that democracy will triumph in it. Room will remain for all to engage in free political work within law and order and to express various political ideas freely and with responsibility. No Lebanese has the right to monopolize patriotism and loyalty to Lebanon.

As for those who were victims of arrogance, self-love, and continuing deception, they are our innocent sons who have paid a dear price on behalf of those selfish people who lusted for power. May they be the redeemers of Lebanon. As for the military men who have fallen while performing their sacred duty, their chaste blood will illuminate the heart of those who are loyal to and believe in Lebanon and who will follow in their footsteps and continue to work and sacrifice for the sake of Lebanon.

We desire one army under one command and one military and national doctrine that will pool out resources and energies to protect Lebanon, impose the state's authority on all Lebanese territory, and liberate the land from the Israeli enemy. We look forward to a bright future to which all categories of Lebanese aspire. May you live long, and long live Lebanon.

Thanks Al-Asad for Assistance

NC1310105290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1038 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and briefed him on the outcome of the military operation which was carried out by the Lebanese authority to consolidate its control over the mutinuous areas.

President al-Hirawi thanked President al-Asad for responding to the Lebanese request regarding Syrian military aid to help the Lebanese legitimate authority in this action which aims to unify Lebanon. President al-Hirawi asked President al-Asad to kindly convey the Lebanese military command's thanks and appreciation to the Syrian Army's officers and soldiers, who helped it regain the usurped part effectively and swiftly.

Al-Huss Addresses Public on 'Historic Moment'

NC1310084090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Address to the Lebanese by Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss on 13 October in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] This is a historic moment in which we record our happiness over the return of the Lebanese Army's unity, the return of peace to all Lebanon, the return of amity to the ranks of this noble steadfast people, and the return of hope for unlimited relaxation.

We could have been spared all the sufferings experienced by these people and citizens. We tried all doors and courses, as well as all options in order to reach a peaceful political solution to the crisis, which had disintegrated Lebanon and displaced its people and pushed the economy and society to the point of collapse. But what could we have done when we—the people and citizens—were destined to shoulder sufferings and manipulations in view of the reckless stubbornness of a mutineer against legitimacy and an outlaw.

Praise be to God that this situation is over and that its page, God willing, has been turned indefinitely. We must now dress our wound, join our ranks, and return to our noble origin as one people, devoted and with unified will, rallying around one legitimacy that could lead to a long awaited march, the march of accord, development, and peace. This would make our homeland, Lebanon, regain its vitality, progress, and prosperity, regain its constructive creative role among the world nations, and assume its natural position under the sun.

Syrian Troops First To Arrive at B'abda Palace

NC1310134090 Paris AFP in English
1315 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Oct 13 (AFP)—[passage omitted] Syrian tanks and armoured vehicles were Saturday deployed in areas of Christian Lebanon north and east of here where such forces had not set foot for 12 years, correspondents reported.

Diplomatic sources said the Syrian Army was the first to arrive at the B'abda Palace in Christian East Beirut, where General 'Awn had been holding out. But units under General Emile Lahhud, commander of Lebanese regular troops, were the first to enter the building.

France Grants Political Asylum to 'Awn

NC1310122690 Paris AFP in English
1218 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut, Oct 13 (AFP)—France on Saturday granted political asylum to General Michel 'Awn, French Ambassasor Rene Ala announced here.

"General 'Awn is now under our protection in the embassy premises," he told Agence France-Presse.

The general, who had been defying Lebanese presidential authority, sought refuge in the embassy earlier in the day after his headquarters in east Beirut came under attack by Syrian forces and Lebanese army regulars.

The general's family remained in the B'abda presidential palace, where he had been headquartered for two years and which was captured early Saturday by Lebanese army units.

Mr. Ala said efforts were under way to arrange for the evacuation of Gen. 'Awn and his family to France.

"The firing was so heavy that when the general decided to leave B'abda and come here he preferred to go alone," accompanied only by few of his officers, according to the ambassador.

He described Gen. 'Awn as "calm."

In Paris the government said Foreign Minister Roland Dumas had been in contact with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian authorities to arrange "a cease-fire and to discuss the personal fate of General 'Awn, his family and partisans."

Mr. al-Hirawi was reported to have asked that France agree to prevent Gen. 'Awn from taking part in any political activity on French soil.

Cabinet Statement Asserts Government Authority

NC1310181290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1728 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Statement by Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq following an Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting on 13 October in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet has held an extraordinary meeting under President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-huss and the ministers. The president of the republic began the meeting with a review of the general situation in the country after the state of rebellion in part of the eastern area had been terminated. He saluted the Lebanese army for the disciplinary operation that it had carried out with the backing of the Sryain Arab troops stationed in Lebanon, in an attempt to achieve the unity of the military establishment and consolidation of peace in

Lebanon. The president praised sisterly Syria's significant and diligent role under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

The prime minister stated that the mission carried out by the Lebanese army with the support of the Syrian Arab troops brings to an end an era of fragmentation and destruction and turns a new leaf in the history of Lebanon, thus confirming the genuine brotherly relations between the two countries.

The cabinet members then listened to a report from the defense minister on the proceedings of yesterday's limited military operation and on the situation on the ground. After discussing the topics on the agenda, the cabinet adopted the following resolutions:

1. To appreciate the tremendous sacrifices by the Lebnaese army as well as by the Sryain Arab troops stationed in Lebanon and to commemorate the martyrs, both military and civilian, who gave their lives in sacrifice of the cause of national unity and peace in Lebanon.

2. To send a thank-you letter from his excellency the president of the republic to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for the positive role in assisting the legitimate Lebanese government

3. To assure all the citizens, wherever they are, that the state is eager to protect them and their personal and public freedom under the law. The state is not going to allow any authority other than the legitimate one to assume the responsibility for any security task in the restored area.

4. To abolish the measures that the government was obliged to take in its bid to end the mutiny. The crossing points are to be opened to all citizens, for the state is responsible for providing every citizen with care, protection, and a decent life.

5. To work for the restoration of normal life, to provide the public with the government services, and to resume normal traffic at Beirut Airport.

6. To take appropriate and prompt measures to implement the provisions of the national accord document with view to dissolving militias, confiscating weapons, extending the state's power over all ports and government services, and restoring the treasury's powers and revenues.

7. To announce that Lebanon has truly entered the era of the second republic, the republic of unity, accord, supremacy of the law, and consolidation of sovereignty and peace. All Lebanese sects in all areas are required to abide by the rule of law and return to the fold of the legitimate state.

8. To consider the ending of the mutiny as a first step toward restoring the requisites of economic and constructive development and toward a new phase of reconstruction, peace, security, and unity.

The cabinet has discussed reports that the former army commander has taken refuge in the French Embassy in Lebanon and was granted political asylum. The cabinet has instructed the minister of justice to examine the legality of that issue so that the appropriate stand can be taken in accordance with standard Lebanese and international laws.

The cabinet pledges to the Lebanese people that it will remain loyal to the principles of national accord and committed to the unity of the homeland and the state and to the safety of the public.

French Source Cites Rizq

LD1410194790 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In Lebanon the Syrian army has removed its contingent surrounding the French Embassy where the Christian general, Michel 'Awn, is still in refuge and has been since his surrender along with his family and a few loyal followers. The government of Ilyas Hirawi does not intend, at least for the time being, to allow the officer, whom France has granted the right to political asylum, to leave. Lebanon is even reported to have asked the French representative, Rene Ala, to hand back the man which it views as a rebel. The file is now in the hands of Lebanese Justice Minister Edmond Rizq, who refuses to see General 'Awn leave the French Embassy. We have Edmond Rizq's explanations given over the phone to Jean-Marc Fourre exclusively for Paris domestic radio.

[Begin recording] [Rizq] [passage omitted] There is no question of giving General 'Awn up to another country or of setting aside Lebanese sovereignty, which has frequently been held up to ridicule so far.

[Fourre] In other words, Mr. Minister, within a few weeks the Syrian troops could withdraw from Lebanon?

[Rizq] I can not say now how that will be carried out and when, but I can tell you that we wish to reestablish Lebanese sovereignty throughout our whole territory. An agreement between the two countries, Lebanon and Syria, will settle everything.

[Fourre] Shouldn't the reestablishment of this sovereignty be carried out by new elections?

[Rizq] Certainly Sir. It is the greatest wish and the greatest dream of our government and our people.

[Fourre] When do you think you can organize such elections?

[Rizq] As early as possible, I hope. [end recording]

[Announcer] In Paris, 100 or so supporters of General 'Awn have invaded the premises of the Lebanese Embassy in France, trapping the head of the delegation inside these apartments. The followers of the Christian officer are now demanding his departure for France.

Until this takes place they have announced their intention of preventing the Lebanese diplomat representing the Hirawi government posted to the French capital from leaving. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Demands French Embassy Hand Over 'Awn

NC1310185690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has called for the formation of a national accord government whose responsibility will be to implement the national accord document approved last year. The new government must provide the minimum prerequisites of life in Lebanon. This came during a news conference which Dr. Ja'ja' held at his headquarters in Ghidras at 1900 today.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: We must learn from all these tragedies in order to build a good future. We must benefit from the events of the past and work for the welfare and good of the society. Dr. Ja'ja' added: History continues and Lebanon continues. We must continue and not give in under the burden of the events we experienced. General 'Awn misinterpreted the al-Ta'if accord, which is not an accord to end the Lebanese crisis.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: I am not pessimistic about the coming stage despite the immense tragedies of the current phase. Rather, I am greatly optimistic about the future provided we confront the future with a new and advanced mentality.

Dr. Ja'ja' said: I pledge to the Lebanese people that the Lebanese Forces will remain loyal to all their principles. Regardless of time, circumstances, and methods, the Lebanese Resistance will remain loyal to its principles. And we will implement these principles.

Dr. Ja'ja' asked the French Embassy to hand over Gen. 'Awn to the legal authority so that he may stand trial and defend himself. Perhaps we were unfair to him and he was right, Ja'ja' said.

113 Dead, 720 Wounded in Operation Against 'Awn

NC1410060590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] AFP estimated the number of victims in the military operation yesterday at 113 dead and 720 wounded. The number of deaths includes 63 military personnel, 32 civilians in the al-Matn area, and 18 civilians in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb, according to the agency.

REUTER said that 200 people were killed and 600 others wounded, including 30 dead and 175 wounded in West Beirut.

Government Against 'Awn Leaving Country

NC1410081990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Citing a highly placed government source, press reports said today that the Lebanese Government has informed the French Government that it strongly rejects 'Awn's departing before he is refered to court on charges of embezzlement of public funds and committing crimes. The source added that Lebanon has reiterated that any attempt to smuggle 'Awn out before he stands trial is bound to create a crisis between Lebanon and France.

[At 0800 GMT on 14 October, Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic says, "President Ilyas al-Hirawi received French Ambassador Rene Ala at the temporary presidential palace in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' at 1000 today."]

Syrian Commander's Comments; Troop Movements

NC1410133490 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, Oct 14 (AFP)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Sunday formally rejected France's offer of political asylum for ousted Christian military leader Michel 'Awn who is hiding out in the French embassy, saying he should be made to face justice, official sources said.

General 'Awn on Sunday afternoon was still holed up at the embassy, a day after escaping his redoubt at the presidential palace of B'abda southeast of here, which Syrian and Lebanese army troops had pounded at the end of the week, forcing him out of it after a two-year stand there.

French ambassador Rene Ala refused to comment on a meeting he held with Mr. al-Hirawi who had ordered Saturday's joint Lebanese-Syrian assault on the Christian military leader's headquarters.

Syrian army forces, backed by Lebanese units, were meanwhile consolidating their positions over areas previously held by Gen. 'Awn, but relaxed their grip on the area around the French embassy, while keeping the ousted Christian leader from leaving.

The commander of Syrian forces in Lebanon, General Sa'id Bayraqdar, told Agence France-Presse his forces had "conducted a peace mission in Lebanon" and that "all roads would be open" in the al-Matn region north of here.

Elsewhere, Syrian armored vehicles were deployed along the Beirut-Damascus highway, a strategic axis slicing through the Christian zones.

Pro-Syrian forces from the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia on Sunday also made inroads into the al-Matn region, Gen. 'Awn's former stronghold.

The LF's former commander, Elie Hubayqah, was seen driving at the head of a convoy of militiamen heading towards the B'abda presidential palace.

In another development, Beirut residents said Syrian soldiers had taken forces loyal to Gen. 'Awn prisoner and that about 20 Syrian troops were killed on the Damascus highway and scores wounded. [passage omitted]

In Tehran, the daily Jomhuri-ye Eslami, which is closely tied to Iranian hardliners, blasted France for offering Gen. 'Awn sanctuary, which it said showed that France "was the true backer of 'Awn in all the crimes and massacres he committed."

Al-Huss Government Reportedly Will Resign

NC1510071690 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] According to press reports, President al-Hirawi will visit Damascus in the next two days to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss the new developments in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, sources close to the government have indicated that Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss will submit his government's resignation this week. The sources expect this to take place in light of the summit meeting that is expected to be held between Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad.

The sources add that a new government must assume authority during the new phase, a government that will consolidate national unity, complete the process of dissolving the miltias, establish the state's authority, and rebuild the institutions that have been destroyed in the war.

Other sources have said, however, that the resignation of the government under the present circumstances will be a risk with no guaranteed results.

'Awn Ministers Taking Refuge in French Embassy

NC1410074090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0655 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi will meet with French Ambassador Rene Ala today to discuss the fate of General Michel 'Awn. 'Awn is currently at the French Embassy building, which is surrounded by a Lebanese Army force.

[At 0630 GMT on 14 October, the Hizballah radio, (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon, says, "Units of the Lebanese Army and Syrian troops are currently surrounding the French Embassy where rebellious officer Michel 'Awn took refuge yesterday. All areas around the embassy have been sealed off."]

It has been learned that former ministers Abu-Jamrah and Ma'luf are also present at the French Embassy along with the absconding officer Michel 'Awn.

In another development, press reports said today that President al-Hirawi will visit Damascus within the next two days to hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on current developments.

Meanwhile, the Nahr al-Kalb-al-Dubayyah crossing point has been reopened for traffic.

Dallul on 'Awn's Trial; Dissolution of Militias

NC1510165890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul has declared that the state is determined to bring General Michel 'Awn to trial, adding: We will under no circumstances allow him to leave Lebanon. Dallul said that when 'Awn's trial file has been completed, we will ask the French to hand him over to stand a fair trial. This, Minister Dallul added, would enable us to know the external elements which played havoc with Lebanon and its people.

Minister Dallul went on to say: We are on the threshold of a new era, when we will be able to investigate several files. He said the state will control all sea ports and airports and will deploy the Army in all areas, including the South. Minister Dallul reiterated the state's ability to overcome all obstacles, noting that it will be possible to dissolve the militias within a

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Kill Detainees

NC1510102190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] According to information our radio received today, while the military operation was being carried out against Former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn last Saturday, the security organs of the so-called Lebanese Forces physically liquidated a number of the military personnel they had been detaining since their battles with the 'Awn-commanded forces.

The information affirmed that these organs buried the bodies of these miltiary personnel in some remote mountainous areas. In view of the fact that these organs had not presented a list of the names of these detainees, and had not allowed the Red Cross to visit them, there is nothing that would embarrass them regarding this matter.

The discovery of the new crime has provoked a wave of wrath and condemnation among a number of the families of the military and civilian detainees. These families have contacted various political and spiritual bodies and have asked them to assume the responsibility of inquiring about the fate of their children, especially as the history of Samir Ja'ja', commander of the so-called Lebanese Forces, and his organs is replete with a series of collective massacres and physical liquidations. These families expressed their fear that these organs may embark on vindictive measures because they hate citizens.

Meanwhile, a number of families in al-Hadath, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and al-Matn have asked the Army command in these areas to provide them with protection. The families were prompted to express their fears after receiving threats and messages from some members of the Lebanese Forces that said they are returning to reassume control of these areas.

Harassment in Al-Matn; Clashes in al-Hadath

NC1410200590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Some groups belonging to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]-Emergency Wing, Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee], and Hizballah continue to assault citizens in al-Matn areas. SSNP elements have raided houses and detained individuals on the basis of lists of names they had with them. They also raised SSNP banners over Phalangist party offices.

Hizballah members erected a roadblock in front of the Regie in al-Hadath and posted Khomeyni portraits on the walls. In this connection, clashes occurred between Hizballah and Elie Hubayqah's supporters. As'ad Shaftari, an aide to Hubayqah, told AFP that approximately 100 Hizballah members exploited the opportunity provided by the army's entry into al-Matn and advanced to the center of al-Hadath township where they carried out robberies and assaults. Shaftari added: We entered the area temporarily to fill the security gap and asked the Hizballah members over loudspeakers to withdraw. When they refused, we opened fire on them and forced them to retreat. month or two.

Martyrs' Tombs 'Wrecked'; Rival Groups Clash

NC1510134590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Our radio has received reports that this morning elements of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] violated the sanctity of the cemetery in Bikfayya. Specifically, these elements wrecked and desecrated the tombs of [Phalangist Party founder] Pierre al-Jumayyil and martyr President Bashir al-Jumayyil.

Meanwhile, clashes between supporters of [former Lebanese Forces commander Elie] Hubayqah and Hizballah were renewed in al-Hadath. Ilyas al-Tannuri, who works for Hubayqah's aide Joseph al-Asmar, was killed in these clashes yesterday. Six Hizballah members were killed near Saint George Hospital in al-Hadath.

Hubayqah's supporters are harassing the citizens, raiding their homes, and robbing jewelry from them. Today, Hubaqah's supporters harassed people participating in the funeral of one of the victims of the military operation in al-Hadath. They also harassed the town's priest. Hubayqah's supporters yesterday prevented the churches in al-Hadath from sounding their bells.

Regarding these transgressions, the legitimate Army under General Lahhud is expected to initiate measures in al-Matn areas this afternoon in order to end the abnormal practices perpetrated by the SSNP, Hubayqah's supporters, and Hizballah. Phalangist leader Dr. George Sa'adah is expected to go to West Beirut this afternoon to discuss these practices with President Ilyas al-

Hizballah, Amal Clash in Sidon; One Killed

NC1510133390 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Oct 15 (AFP)—Rival Shiite factions clashed with automatic weapons near here Monday leaving a member of the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement dead, police [said]. The clash pitted members of the Syrian-backed Amal militia and a Hizballah (Party of God) fighter, police said.

A spokesman for Amal confirmed the report but it was not immediately clear what prompted the bloodshed—the latest in the endemic feud between the rival Shiite factions.

Amal sent reinforcements to Harat Sayda, an eastern suburb of this port city and set up roadblocks while the nearest Hizballah barracks at 'Abra village, one kilometer (mile) away, was placed on full alert.

The clash was the first in its kind to take place in five years in the Sidon region, home of Lebanon's two largest Palestinian refugee camps where an estimated 200,000 people live.

The secular Amal militia and the fundamentalist Hizballah have been fighting since 1988 for the control of the Shiite community—Lebanon's largest religious group. Hirawi.

'Resources' at Disposal of Al-Hirawi Government

JN1310071590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Supports the Legitimate Government's Steps," TISHRIN says: After the legitimate Lebanese Government tightened the siege on the B'abda area, 'Awn issued a series of calls for help, and called on East Beirut citizens to rally around him and remain steadfast until the last moment. The fact is that this position calls for surprise. Why should 'Awn stand as an obstacle to the big national plan represented by uniting Lebanon?

TISHRIN adds: The legitimate Lebanese Government has exerted large-scale and vigorous efforts throughout the last period, with all sides fearing or opposing national reconciliation to achieve a Lebanese consensus and achieve a settlement in which not a single drop of blood will be shed. This government knocked on every door, gave all guarantees, and studied all plans presented to it. The only condition for these efforts was to join the al-Ta'if charter that has become a constitution for the country.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria has always supported the legitimate Lebanese Government. Syria has declared—since President al-Hirawi assumed power—that it places all its resources at the disposal of the Lebanese brothers to achieve reconciliation and spread the government's authority. Syria has renewed this commitment more than once—through President al-Asad—out of its belief that the fate of the two countries is the same, that they are one, and that what affects Lebanon also affects Syria. Out of this perception, Syria today—as yesterday—supports every step taken by the legitimate Lebanese Government to restore the country's unity.

Radio Cites Reports on Beirut Developments

JN1310083890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] News agencies stated in an urgent report from Beirut this morning that 'Awn has asked—in a call which he addressed from his radio—his forces to receive orders from the command of General Emile Lahhud. The Lebanese Defense Ministry announced in a statement issued today that the Army units have been advancing on all fronts since dawn today toward B'abda Palace and its perimeters to end the rebellion led by 'Awn out of their urgent duty to correct the anomalous situation in the military establishment and to put an end to this situation once and for all.

Government To Extend Aid to Lebanese Army

JN1310084690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 Oct (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi requesting Syrian help for the Lebanese Army, as the latter is working to spread legitimate authority over some Lebanese areas that have deviated from the legitimate government.

Proceeding from the fact that Syria has always stressed its support for the legitimate Lebanese Government, and in accordance with the National Reconciliation Charter to which Syria is committed, Syria has decided to extend the required aid when the Lebanese Army carries out the task assigned to it.

Minister on Damascus Role in Ending 'Rebellion'

JN1310092890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', commenting on the latest developments in Lebanon, has stated that Syria has given Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi the assistance needed to end what the Syrian minister has described as General Michel 'Awn's rebellion.

Al-Shar' Says 'Awn Fall Will Restore Stability

JN1310114090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has declared that the fall of Michel 'Awn will help restore stability and security to Lebanon.

In a statement to REUTER today on 'Awn's surrender, al-Shar' said that 'Awn was given many opportunities to join the legitimate Lebanese Government, yet he rejected this despite his public and political isolation within Lebanon. We have always said that the al-Ta'if accord has become the constitution in Lebanon, and whoever stands against it has no future, he added.

Al-Hirawi Briefs Al-Asad on Lebanon Operation

JN1310131890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1100 today a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi in which he briefed his excellency on the success of the operation to end the rebellion against the legitimate Lebanese goverment at the hands of the Lebanese forces of legitimacy, and with the help of Syrian forces.

President al-Hirawi expressed his gratitude and the gratitude of Lebanon to Syria and to the president personally for the help provided to Lebanon to end the rebellion, which in fact means the unification of Lebanon. President al-Hirawi thanked the Syrian forces for their accomplishments and the successful means they employed to help the legitimate Lebanese government end the rebellion and spread its authority. President al-Hirawi said: The Lebanese people and Lebanese officials will always remember in gratitude and appreciation

Syria's continuous help to Lebanon over the many years to save its institutions and unity, and to save it from its suffering.

President al-Hirawi added: Today's accomplishment will strengthen fraternal relations between the two countries to the highest limits. Also, the Lebanese people know that, had it not been for Syria and the personal efforts of President Hafiz al-Asad, they would not have been able to protect what they have protected nor accomplish what they have accomplished toward the attainment of what was accomplished today, which in fact means Lebanon's unity.

President al-Hirawi said: If Syria and Lebanon cooperated in the past on the basis of their common fraternal roots, then what Syria has done today for the sake of Lebanon and what it has done since the beginning of the internal conflict deepens and strengthens these roots.

The president thanked President al-Hirawi for his sentiments toward Syria and its Armed Forces. He stressed to him that Syria's actions toward Lebanon are based on the brotherhood which binds the two countries, and that Syria will always be ready to provide the necessary help to this fraternal country, which is bound to Syria by the strongest and most profound ties. The president expressed resolute determination to cooperate with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and all Lebanese officials in the interest of the two countries and to strengthen and deepen their brotherhood.

Al-Shar' Pledges Continued Assistance to Lebanon

JN1310135590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Syria, out of its commitment to the al-Ta'if document and in accordance with a request from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, extended the necessary assistance to the Lebanese Army within the framework of the al-Ta'if document to spread the legitimate Lebanese Government's authority over the entire Lebanese territory.

Al-Shar' emphasized that 'Awn's fall will help restore security and stability to Lebanon and extricate it from the acute and strangulating crisis it is experiencing. His fall will also contribute to reunifying the country and army in this sisterly country. Al-Shar' said Syria will continue to help al-Hirawi's government spread its authority over the country. Syria, he added, is committed to continuing its aid and assistance to the fraternal Lebanese people until they reach the shores of safety.

Al-Asad Receives Al-Huss Thanks, Vows Support

JN1310144390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Gentlemen, we have just received the following:

President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call today from Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss during which he expressed great thanks and appreciation for the effort exerted by the president and the sacrifices made in the past years by Syria for the sake of Lebanon. Dr. al-Huss said: The operation to end the rebellion against legitimacy, which took place today with Syria's help is a great act, which Lebanon receives with appreciation and gratitude. This achievement would not have been possible without President Hafiz al-Asad's response to the request by the legitimate Lebanese Government to extend aid to spread Lebanese legitimacy over the areas of rebellion.

Dr. al-Huss expressed to the president the entire Lebanese people's appreciation for the support given by the Syrian Armed Forces to the legitimate forces to put an end to the rebellion. The president thanked Dr. al-Huss for his sentiments toward him and Syria. He said that also in the future, Syria will not hesitate to stand by Lebanon.

Commentary Views 'Liberation' of Southern Lebanon

JN1310154790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, reckless intransigence and individual adventurism lacking any objective basis were destined to fall after all the veils had fallen away that had been used by an adventurer-officer who put his own interests before those of his people and nation. 'Awn's downfall today was no surprise to anyone. In fact, the only surprise was the continuation of the abnormal divisionist situation for so long a time because of the legitimate Lebanese Government's concern not to expose innocent people in eastern Beirut to any harm as a result of 'Awn's actions. 'Awn turned these people into hostages and a human shield behind which he protected himself in the hope of prolonging his hegemony over part of Lebanon, and consequently preventing the unity of Lebanon—land, people, and institutions. If 'Awn succeeded for a certain period of time in preventing national accord in Lebanon and in creating vacuum in authority, which he took advantage of to impose himself as a dictator of Lebanon, the national accord agreement reached in al-Ta'if, which has become a national charter for all Lebanese and a new Constitution for the future Lebanon—a free and united Arab Lebanon, has eliminated all the pretexts and justifications behind which 'Awn tried to hide himself to conceal his crazy thirst for power. After the approval of the national accord agreement, the legitimate Lebanese Government tried to turn a new page in Lebanon's history by calling on all parties to recognize the new national charter as a prelude to rebuilding Lebanon on the bases of justice and equality in rights and duties, primarily equal opportunities among all Lebanese. In fact, the legitimate government's concern to guarantee the participation of all parties in building Lebanon's future was interpreted by some sides as hesitation or impotence to impose its control over all Lebanon.

The legitimate government endured these results patiently out of its concern to protect what remained of Lebanon as a result of destruction, and in the hope of averting further bloodshed from the Lebanese. However, adventurer and intransigent 'Awn wasted several opportunities given to him to join the legitimate government. This contributed to tightening his political and popular isolation inside and outside Lebanon. From this premise, 'Awn's downfall will certainly contribute to restoring stability and security to Lebanon and will lead to rescuing Lebanon from the very difficult ordeal it has suffered for 15 years. Moreover, it will expedite the process of reunifying the country and its national army at a stage when the Lebanese need further cohesion to complete the process of imposing legitimacy over all Lebanon and the liberation of steadfast southern Lebanon.

And now, facts have proved what we said in the past to the effect that the Lebanese national accord document has become a new Constitution for Lebanon, and that whoever is against this document has no future in Lebanon. 'Awn's downfall confirms this fact. Syria, which has repeatedly stressed its commitment to helping Lebanon as a result of the fraternal ties between the one people in the two fraternal countries, has never hesitated to respond to the legitimate Lebanese Government's request to help the Lebanese Army impose the legitimate government's control over territories that were not under its control. Syria will continue, as always, faithful to its commitments to extend continuous aid and assistance to the fraternal Lebanese people so they can reach a safe shore, especially since a new stage has begun in which the Lebanese are expected to witness the expediting of national accord, disbanding militias, and rebuilding Lebanon to restore Lebanon's national and pan-Arab role on the regional and international levels. A dark page in the history of the Lebanese crisis was turned today, which cost the Lebanese people great sufferings and sacrifices. A new page is being turned today toward a promising future of goodness, health, and security to Lebanon, all Lebanon, and to all Lebanese sects and affiliations.

Military Spokesman Details Action in Lebanon

JN1310170690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1624 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Brother compatriots, a military spokesman has stated the following: Out of a commitment to implement the al-Ta'if accord and Syria's pledge to support the legitimate Lebanese Government and enable it to spread its control over all Lebanese territories, and after the legitimate Lebanese Government requested Syrian assistance to end the rebellion led by Michel 'Awn, our valiant forces in Lebanon, in coordination with the legitimate Lebanese Army, carried out a lightning military operation against Michel 'Awn's positions and headquarters. They succeeded, right from the first moments to win the battle decisively and knock the rebels' positions down over their heads. This made that rebel, the boaster of bravery, flee and seek safety and refuge at a foreign embassy, leaving those whom he deluded alone in the arena with no determination or will to fight.

Our forces quickly advanced toward their specified targets and our heroes managed, at 1100 today, to storm the headquarters of rebel 'Awn in the Presidential Palace in B'abda and the headquarters of his aides at the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah, and forced the forces of that coward to surrender and lay down their weapons.

It is noteworthy that the splendid cooperation among our Armed Forces corps and their wholehearted devotion to carrying out their sacred pan-Arab duty—as is customary with them—was the decisive factor in paralyzing the rebels' fighting will, putting a decisive end to the battle, and accomplishing the assigned mission most perfectly and in record time. Our Armed Forces have once again proven that they are prepared with high efficiency to fulfill their pan-Arab duty anywhere in the Arab homeland and that they truly embody the saying of our president and leader, hero struggler President Hafiz al-Asad: Martyrdom or victory.

TV Cites AFP on 'Awn Assassination Attempt

JN1210191590 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1845 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] In eastern Beirut, AGANCE FRANCE PRESS reported an attempt on the life of Michel 'Awn this afternoon. The agency said that a man in a crowd at the B'abda Palace fired several shots toward 'Awn with a revolver, but he missed him. A correspondent for the agency said that this was followed by firing that resulted in the injury of at least one person among the military personnel surrounding 'Awn.

Lebanese Urged To 'Join Hands,' Cooperate

JN1410172090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: History will spare no tyrant or rebel; both are invariably and inexorably doomed. That a united Lebanon should triumph over 'Awn, who defied legitimacy, had been a foregone conclusion. The lesson to be learned is that whenever a given nation and people take on gamblers and those who choose to be cavalier with their fortunes, the former are bound to come out on top.

With this nightmare—the erstwhile occupant of the B'abda Palace that threatened the security, stability, and unity of Lebanon, thwarted its national accord, and sought to usurp legitimacy through killings, shellings, and devastation—now out of the way—thanks to the resolve of the legitimate Government to end this divisionist anomaly—a reunited, invigorated Syrian-backed Lebanon will press ahead with its unionist march and will promote legitimacy, state institutions, national reconciliation, and the al-Ta'if accord as the constitution of a united democratic, Arab country. With the anomaly of

'Awn's insurgency over, now is the time for serious, dedicated work to get rid of the vestiges of the defunct era with all its insidious implications for Lebanon and the Arab nation. Now is the time for all decent Lebanese forces to join hands under the banner of legitimacy to build Lebanon on such foundations as will do away with all the causes of war and infighting, sectarianism, and wounds. However, this can only happen if the interests of the nation and the people are placed before parochial interests, and if the legitimate government is allowed to function smoothly enough to pilot Lebanon to the shore of safety in the interest of a fortified national unity able to withstand conspiracies and brace for liberating southern Lebanon from Zionist occupation. But first the Lebanese will have to bury the hatchet and mount sincere cooperation among themselves.

With this stumbling block—insurgent 'Awn—out of the way, the path is now cleared for a reunification of the army and land. The downfall of 'Awn has shown that, supported by Syria, the legitimate Lebanese government can reassert its authority throughout the country. Syria has time and again declared that whatever assistance is requested by Lebanon's legitimate government toward that end will be forthcoming. Syria remains thus committed, motivated by a pan- Arab, sisterly sense of responsibility and a determination to end the country's civil war and stand up to the conspiracy of dismembering the country, not least given that the al-Ta'if document, whose execution had been hampered by 'Awn's insurgency and the anomalous state of affairs in the eastern districts, has assumed the status of a constitution, and accordingly, whoever chooses to obstruct it has no future and will meet the same fate as 'Awn.

As President Hafiz al-Asad has emphasized to President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss, Syria will, as ever, remain ready to extend every possible assistance to this sisterly country, to which it is bound by the strongest ties.

Paper Says UN Resolution 'Shook' Israel

JN1410165590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 14 Oct (SANA)—TISHRIN has stressed that Israel, which escapes from its terrorist acts under various pretexts, excuses, and delusions, deems the internatinal consensus resolution adopted by the UN Security Council as a serious precedent to the continuation of its occupation of the occupied Arab territories, and also as a prelude to the possibilities and measures which might put it in a dilemma and in clear confrontation with the international society and the United Nations.

In today's commentary, the paper says that what aggravates Israel's hysteria is that UN Security Council Resolution No. 672 focuses on Jerusalem, where the massacre took place, with all its political and religious implications to the Arabs and its position with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

The paper adds: The UN Security Council resolution shook Israel and made its leaders lose their senses. They started cursing UN Security Council members, because no one can any longer cover the enemy's crimes perpetrated in daylight with no pretext or deterrent.

TISHRIN concludes: No matter how long Israel persists in rejecting the international consensus, it cannot proceed any further against the wave which has started to appear. This wave insists on a real, comprehensive, and just solution for the Palestine question that is based on Israel's withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing Palestinians rights through an international conference for peace under UN sponsorship and the attendance of all parties to the conflict, including the UN Security Council permanent members. This can only be achieved through continuous endeavors to force Israel to submit and heed the requirements of peace in the region.

Afghanistan

Clashes Continue Between Troops, Rebels in Kabul

Units Destroy Weapons, Vehicles

LD1210153590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] In continuation of the combat and mopping-up operation by the units and subunits of the general command of the Kabul garrison, nine ringleaders of the Wahhabi Sayyaf extremist group were crushed near Paghman district.

According to BAKHTAR's military section, together with these ringleaders—Momen, Shengol, Abdollah and [names as heard] [word indistinct]—two BM-2 sets and one set of BM-1 which were used in firing residential regions were eliminated. During this operation, four weapons and ammunition vehicles and one weapons and ammunition depot were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of mopping-up operations, one mortar, 92 mines, 60 shells of recoilless guns, 10 boxes of rocket launcher shells, 12 boxes of ammunition for DshK, two machineguns and a number of antivehicle and antipersonnel mines were seized in Dehnaw region of Lowgar Province. As a result of blows by the armed forces in this region, a major depot of weapons and ammunition and several vehicles belonging to the enemy were set on fire and destroyed.

Further on Operations

LD1310164990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The units and subunits of the general command of the Kabul garrison have successfully been carrying out their mopping up operations in the southern region and have inflicted crushing blows on the enemeis of our people's peace and tranquillity.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of the recent mopping-up operations, a number of extremists were crushed or injured and the units and subunits have taken new positions in this region. As a result of these operations, two heavy machineguns, two communications sets, two binoculars, 300 (Mazael) type surface-to-surface missiles, 80 Sakr-30 and Sakr-20 U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles, 200 boxes of ammunition for DShKs, 450 rocket shells, 170 artillery shells, 50 mortar shells, 50 antivehicle mines, 220 antipersonnel mines, and 52 kilograms of explosive were seized.

The units and subunits of the general command of Kabul garrison are successfully continuing their mopping-up operations in the southern region with high combat morale and with a feeling of patriotism.

'Heavy' Fighting Reported

BK1410014090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1809 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 13 (AFP)—Afghan forces checked an assault by the mujahidin resistance to overrun Kabul, but heavy hand-to-hand fighting continued in several areas near this capital city, a presidential spokesman said Saturday. Sarwar Yourish, a spokesman for President Najibullah, said the main onslaught by the mujahidin launched late Tuesday had been "successfully rebuffed" with the government capturing many positions held by the resistance.

However, hand-to-hand fighting was still raging in areas of Arghandi, 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of here, while exchanges of heavy artillery and rocket fire continued elsewhere, Mr. Yourish said. He said he had no details about casualties.

The latest mujahidin offensive had been planned by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and carried out by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Pakistan-based mujahidin (Hikmatyar) group, he said. M. Yourish denied mujahidin claims that they had captured 10 government security posts and killed 38 soldiers in the fighting.

"I can certainly say that they (the mujahidin) have not been able to seize a single post. Security forces have not only defended, but in many places made advances and captured their (mujahidin's) position," he said. The Kabul Government said Thursday that the mujahidin had launched a two-pronged attack aimed at capturing Kabul from its western and southwestern flanks.

Mr. Hikmatyar had denied that his forces launched a major assault and said it was part of his routine operations against the Soviet-backed Kabul regime and the big push was yet to come. Life in Kabul appeared to be normal Saturday with shops and offices open as usual.

Government Spokesman Comments

BK1410155390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 14 (AFP)—At least 177 mujahidin guerrillas and two government soldiers were killed during the latest rebel attempt to overrun the Afghan capital Kabul, a government spokesman said here Sunday. Spokesman Humayun Mokammel said the guerrillas were killed when troops retaliated and beat off a two-pronged attack by the guerrillas overnight Tuesday aimed at capturing Kabul.

"We suffered very minor losses because we were on the defensive and they were on the offensive. We had more men, better weapons and also the advantage of air power," he said. Sporadic fighting, including hand-to-hand combat, continued in several places near the city, but the worst fighting was now over, Mr. Mokammel said.

The government had earlier said 71 guerrillas were killed in Arghandi Bolo, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of here. The second guerrilla column tried to reach the capital from the southeast and were stopped at a heavily defended area called Khakejabbar, also 40 kilometres from here.

Mr. Mokammel said at least 100 guerrillas were seriously wounded in the fighting since Tuesday night and he put the government losses at two soldiers dead and 30 wounded. He said the police, the military wing of the secret service KHAD and pro-government tribal militia forces had joined the Afghan Army in repulsing the guerrilla attacks.

Mr. Mokammel could not say if there had been any civilian casualties. The capital Kabul was quiet Sunday and shops and offices were open as normal. The official said the worst was over.

Rebel Commanders Meet To Discuss New Strategy

Plan Military Coordination

BK1410075190 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 14 Oct 90

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say about 40 guerrilla field commanders have met to discuss new strategy in their attempt to defeat the government in Kabul. One of the most powerful mujahidin commanders, Ahmad Shah Masood, took part for the first time and as Lyce Doucet reports from Islamabad, his presence is being seen as an important breakthrough toward military coordination among the guerrillas.

[Begin Doucet recording] Reports of an impending superpower agreement on Afghanistan likely to involve an arms cut-off to the mujahidin and the Afghan Government has helped concentrate the minds of guerrilla commanders. Many have also been disappointed with their Pakistan-based political leadership. This leaders' meeting is the first involving Ahmad Shah Masood, the powerful commander controlling large parts of northeast Afghanistan, and it represents a breakthrough in long-standing efforts to improve coordination among field commanders.

This four-day gathering along Pakistan's northwestern border also occurs in the midst of a new realignment of mujahidin forces. On one side, guerrillas led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and supported by Pakistani military intelligence are warning of an imminent military assault against Kabul, combined with internal subversion to topple the Afghan Government. It is bitterly opposed by some commanders who believe that a conventional attack is doomed to fail. It is not certain whether this latest commanders' meeting was prompted by these plans. But what does seem clear is the importance of Ahmad Shah Masood, one of Mr. Hikmatyar's archrivals in any competing strategies. [end recording]

Meanwhile, security is being stepped up in Kabul. A correspondent for the BBC says tanks and troops have been deployed in ever greater numbers with security checks outside key buildings. The night-time curfew has been extended for an hour.

To Stage Joint Operations

BK1510085490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 15 Oct 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Chitral, Pakistan, Oct 15 (AFP)—Top Aghan guerrilla leaders have decided to stage joint operations against the Kabul government for the first time in a bid to capture major cities before the winter, a guerrilla leader said Monday.

The decision was taken at a meeting last week chaired, also for the first time since the war began 12 years ago, by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud who controls large areas of the north of the country and who up to now has always waged a solitary campaign, guerrilla leader Amin Wardak said.

The conference, bringing together some 30 mujahidin field commanders, took place Tuesday [9 October] to Friday near the Topkhana pass in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province, he said.

The presence of Mr. Mas'ud, 38, was seen as a further sign of the guerrilla leaders' determination to organise their own strategy separately from the often incoherent policies advocated by the various Afghan groups based in Pakistan and Iran. Mr. Wardak said the commanders had drawn up "a joint military strategy" to increase pressure on government forces "throughout the country, including Kabul" while trying to spare the lives [of] civilians who were being used as a shield by "the communist clique."

Afghanistan had been split into nine operational zones with the guerrilla leaders agreeing for the first time to work together, keeping in contact more by radio and organising joint operations to weaken Kabul's forces "in several regions at once." Mr. Wardak said Kabul had taken advantage of rivalries and divisions between the guerrilla groups since the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in February last year. But he added: "Our aim is to win the war, and sooner or later we will win."

The mujahidin, who won significant victories against Soviet forces during their occupation of Afghanistan have failed since their pullout to capture any major city, mainly because of a total lack of coordination between them. Only Tarin Kowt, capital of the central province of Oruzgan, has fallen, and then only on October 3. Since its capture the city has been under heavy government air attack.

Mr. Wardak said the commanders at the Topkhana meeting had also stressed their intention to set up or consolidate "civilian administration structures" independent of Kabul. While asserting their autonomy in military matters, the guerrilla leaders said they still wished to maintain their links with the traditional Shiite and Sunni political parties based in Pakistan and Iran.

These parties had a role to play internationally, Mr. Wardak said, adding that field commanders would be having talks with exiled political and religious leaders, as well as Afghan intellectuals living in Western countries. Mr. Wardak said the commanders rejected any idea of negotiating with the Soviet Government as long as Moscow continued to support Afghan President Najibullah and the other "criminals" in Kabul.

He said that the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was not represented at the Topkhana conference, but it was planned to keep in touch with him. Two earlier meetings of mujahidin commanders have taken place this year, but last week's was the first time that Mr. Mas'ud had consented to meet such other leading military chiefs as Abdul Haq, Jalaluddin Haqqani, Mollah Malang and Said Jagran.

'Extremist' Group Attacks Herat City Mosque

LD1210161790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] A terrorist group attached to the extremist bands has today carried out in Herat city an anti-Islamic and anti-humane tragic crime.

According to the report by the BIA's military section, the members of this terrorist group carried out an armed attack on the grand mosque of Herat city where hundreds of people were gathered to offer prayer to Almighty God today at 1330. As a result of this criminal action by the extremists, eight compatriots of ours were martyred and 22 others were injured. A commander of the regional units of Herat Province, Amer Sayd Ahmad Khan, who had gone to this mosque to pray, was martyred as a result of this terrorist action by the extremists.

Those injured were quickly taken to hospitals where they are under treatment. The government of Herat and officials of this province visited those injured. An employee of the Iranian consulate in Herat city, Ali Raza, who had gone to this mosque for Friday prayers, is also among those injured.

Security Ministry Buys Surface-to-Air Missiles

LD1210181990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Four Strella-type surface-to-air missiles have been purchased recently from a ringleader of the extremists group of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar by the personnel of the central bodies of the State Security Ministry. According to a report by BAKHTAR's military section, the price for these missiles has been paid to the opposite side.

India

Cut in Supply of Petroleum Products Announced

BK1210131190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Government today announced 15 percent cut in the supply of all petroleum products barring kerosene. The finance minister, Professor Dandavate, told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the supply of petroleum products to all the outlets is being curtailed in view of the severe financial constraints caused by the Gulf crisis. The cut will apply to all central and state governments and public and private sectors. Professor Dandavate announced that the import of gold, which is presently being allowed for making jewelry, is also being stopped.

Oil Shortage Reported

BK1310093990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] In Delhi, a large number of petrol pumps today exhibited no-stock boards and serpentine queues of vehicles were seen at other pumps. Our correspondents, who went round the city, report that petrol pump owners attributed this partly to nonavailability of sufficient petrol during the last two days because of strike by public sector executives and partly to panic buying. A spokesman of the Indian Oil Corporation told our correspondent that the stocks are being replenished and the position is expected to ease by this evening.

Government Levies Surcharge

BK1410163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] A 25 percent Gulf surcharge has been levied on all petroleum products excepting cooking gas with immediate effect. The finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate, says that this temporary measure has been taken to meet the situation caused by the Gulf crisis and consequent spurt in oil prices in the international market. He said the government will reconsider the measure if the situation eases and the price of oil in the international market declines and stabilizes. The restriction on timings of all petrol pumps which had been imposed in June this year has been lifted.

Another important announcement made by the government today is the levying of an additional surcharge of seven percent on corporate income tax for the assessment year 1991-92. The receipts of this additional surcharge which amounts to about 400 crore [unit of 10 million] rupees and [amount as heard] will be used for meeting the expenditure incurred on evacuation and the provision of other essential facilities for Indian citizens who were settled in the Gulf but have been forced to leave. The center has taken the decisions after consultations with the leaders supporting the government. An official spokesman told newsmen that with the increase in price of crude oil in the international market, India had to pay 590 rupees for every barrel of oil in September as against the price of 260 rupees per barrel three months ago. With the imposition of Gulf surcharge, the losses incurred on the import of oil will be partially made up to the tune of about 400 crore rupees. A series of other measures have also been announced to augment the resources and protect the national economy in view of the Gulf crisis. A program has been drawn up for additional exports worth 2,000 crore rupees over the next 12 months.

Security Forces To Seal Off Disputed Shrine

*BK1410091790 Hong Kong AFP in English
0757 GMT 14 Oct 90*

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 14 (AFP)—Indian security forces are preparing to seal off a town where Hindu militants have sparked fears of a communal bloodbath by vowing to build a temple on the site of a Moslem mosque, press reports said Sunday. All entries to Ayodhya will be plugged, road links cut and train services re-routed by October 20 to preempt thousands of Hindus expected to gather in the town for the temple construction 10 days later, the INDIAN EXPRESS said.

Security forces took over all pilgrims' hostels, are pursuing house-to-house sweeps and are ordering outsiders to leave, the EXPRESS said in a front-page report from Ayodhya. Many local leaders of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), which is spearheading the temple campaign, have gone underground to escape arrest, the daily said.

Hindu and Moslem residents of the town, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, have armed themselves "to the teeth" in preparation for a bloody showdown over the temple-mosque dispute, it cited intelligence reports as saying. "Homes are being converted into arsenals," a senior government official was quoted as saying. "You will be surprised at the range and quality of weapons they possess. One wrong step and we are in for trouble."

The report appeared as BJP President Lal Krishan Advani, touring the country in a whirlwind campaign to whip up Hindu support for his party's temple construction drive, was due to arrive in the national capital. The BJP, whose Hindu-revivalist platform has made it a potential political superpower in overwhelmingly-Hindu India, is an ally of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's minority National Front government.

The front has, however, ruled out a compromise and vowed to protect the Ayodhya mosque "at all costs." Moslems, who number 100 million and are India's largest religious minority, say the mosque was built by Moghul Emperor Babar who ruled from 1528 to 1530 in India's early Islamic era.

Hindus, who compose more than 80 per cent of India's 850 million population, say Babar built the mosque after demolishing an existing temple at the site, reportedly the birthplace of their revered Lord Rama. The dispute has sparked dozens of bloody communal clashes between Hindus and Moslems, leaving hundreds dead.

New Delhi police boosted security Sunday, calling in paramilitary reinforcements, to prevent "any unseemly incident" coinciding with Mr. Advani's arrival and planned drive through the capital. BJP supporters were preparing to give a rousing welcome to their leader's caravan, which would be escorted by 51 horse riders and hundreds of spectators on the sidelines showering rose petals on its route.

BJP Leader En Route to Shrine in Ayodhya

Arrives in Delhi

*BK1410093090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Oct 90*

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] Rath Yatra [journey by chariot to the disputed shrine in Ayodhya] arrived in Delhi this morning from Bahadurgarh in Haryana. The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, who is undertaking the yatra from the Somnath Temple in Gujarat to Ayodhya was received at the Tigri border by a large number of people. Those present included leaders from the BJP, the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], the Arya Samaj, the Akali Dal-Badal, and some other organizations. Our correspondent says that earlier near Rohtak, the police lathi [baton] charged antireservation students when they staged a dharna [sit-in strike] on the Rohtak-Delhi highway to block the Rath Yatra. The students also pelted stones on the rath. Mr. Advani however escaped unhurt.

Urges Negotiations on Dispute

*BK1410133690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Oct 90*

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that negotiated settlement is the best solution to the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said litigations cannot help solve this complex problem. Mr. Advani said that during his Rath Yatra [journey by chariot to disputed shrine in Ayodhya], the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, contacted him once and desired that there should be a negotiated settlement. No details of any settlement were however discussed. Mr. Advani blamed the political parties for aggravating the issue and they are following, what he said, the politics of the vote bank. He said that if the issue had been presented in its true perspective, there would have been no tension. Mr. Advani asserted that his Rath Yatra has contributed to the easing of tension, if not removing it completely.

Replying to a question, Mr. Advani said his party took the decision to support the National Front government after due deliberations. If there is any change in the stand, it will be done after weighing all aspects. Earlier, on arrival in the capital, Mr. Advani, who was undertaking the 10,000 km journey from Somnath to Ayodhya, was received at the Tigri border by a large number of people.

Muslim Leaders Appeal for Communal Harmony

BK1410161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh State Integration Council has appealed to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, to stop the Rath Yatra [journey by chariot to disputed shrine in Ayodhya] in the interest of national unity and communal harmony. A resolution to this effect was passed at the first meeting of the reconstituted council held in Lucknow today. It also suggested setting up of communal harmony committee at all levels in the state for foiling attempts to create communal tension. Presiding over the meeting, the chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, appealed to the council to take initiative for solving the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue.

Eminent Muslim leaders met in New Delhi today and appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony in view of the ongoing Rath Yatra by the BJP. The meeting was presided over by the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid, Syed Abdullah Bukhari. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Bukhari said the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue should be settled through discussions.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that there is no option but to come to an agreement to find a solution to the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. In an informal chat with newsmen in New Delhi today, he said by confrontation no solution can be found.

Sikh Party Leader Resigns From Parliament

BK1210160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, today resigned as member of the Lok Sabha in protest against the extension of president's rule in Punjab. He was elected from the Tarn Taran constituency in Punjab in December last. Mr. Mann had not not taken his oath as member of the Lok Sabha.

Iran

Velayati, Iraqi Official Discuss Cooperation

LD1210114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister Al-Zahawi met last night with our country's foreign minister Velayati. While conveying the Iraqi foreign minister's greetings, he submitted a report to our country's foreign minister on his meetings with his Iranian counterpart, and the agreements reached on establishing a joint technical committee to discuss POW affairs and the reopening of the two countries' embasies. He again placed emphasis on Tariq 'Aziz's invitation to Mr. Velayati to visit Baghdad. Al-Zahawi announced the wish of the Iraqi Government to reestablish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic missions between the two countries.

Mr. Velayati expressed satisfaction with the trend of bilateral talks toward removing differences and normalizing relations, and noted the speeding up of the exchange of POW's as detailed in specified information.

Both sides also agreed in principal on the formation of a joint military committee between the two countries and the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG].

Supreme Security Council Reviews Iraq Relations

LD1310165890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session this evening attended by its members, political advisors, and high-ranking military commanders. At the session the trend of the expansion of relations between Iran and Iraq and the latest situation in the region were reviewed.

Direct Diplomatic Ties Resumed With Iraq

LD1410165290 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14 IRNA—Iran and Iraq have resumed direct diplomatic ties following the reopening of their respective embassies in Baghdad and Tehran today, announced the Foreign Ministry. The Iraqi charge d'affaires, along with some embassy staffers, has already taken up his assignment in Tehran as of today, while the Iranian charge d'affaires is to leave for Baghdad shortly, it said. The names and number of the Iraqi diplomatic mission in Tehran is yet to be announced.

"The two parties, being desirous to normalize their relations... have agreed to reopen their embassies as of today Sunday 22nd of Mehr 1369, corresponding to 14 October 1990," said the statement. The statement was released at the end of the 4-day visit to Iran of Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Wisam al Zahawi, who left for Baghdad today afternoon. Diplomatic ties were severed three years ago in the closing stages of the almost 8-year Iraqi war.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1410170290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] At the close of the official visit of the Iraqi deputy foreign minister to Iran, a joint communique on the resumption of political relations between the two countries was issue simultaneously in Tehran and Baghdad. The text of the communique is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During the official visit of Mr. al-Zahawi, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, which was a response to the invitation extended by Mr. Mottaki, the Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy foreign minister, and which lasted from the 18th-22nd of Mehr, corresponding to 10-14 October, 1990, the two parties have agreed to reopen their embassies from today, Sunday, 22nd Mehr, corresponding to 14 October, 1990, in order to normalize relations and enable them to renew diplomatic relations."

This report states that the Iraqi Embassy's charge d'affaires and staff arrived today in Tehran and that the Islamic Republic of Iran's charge d'affaires will soon depart for Baghdad.

President Discusses Gulf Crisis, U.S. Relations

NC1110190490 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] In an interview with a correspondent of the French newspaper LE MONDE, President Hojjat-ol-Eslam Shaykh Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained the stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Persian Gulf crisis, its views on dealing with the aggressor, and obstacles to Iranian-French relations.

Regarding the best way to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. The foreign forces must also leave the region. Then the countries of the region will solve their problems by themselves. The president of the Republic rejected any possible dispatch of Iranian forces to the region, stressing that we are not willing to stay in the same trench as the Americans even for a day or to send forces and help to Saudi Arabia which took an economic stand against us during the war. He added: Kuwait was hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran during the war, but it is not right that it should be punished by an aggressor country. Iraq's sins in the war were greater than those of Kuwait. The damage that Iraq inflicted on the region was greater than that inflicted by Kuwait.

He added: We are not contemplating delivering a blow to the Iraqi forces but if Iraq wants to use its forces for aggression then we will not allow this aggression; we will intervene and repel it. We will not even allow them [not further identified] to give Bubiyan Island to Iraq; we will intervene.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: The West's stand on the Persian Gulf crisis is not based on justice or defense of those who were wronged. As to the establishment of relations with France, that is another issue between the two countries. Though there are discouraging precedents in the way France dealt with us, we have left the door open to international cooperation in the two countries' interests.

He said: We are very concerned about the presence of infidel forces on Islamic territories. If one day we feel that these infidel forces intend to stay in the region, then it would become our duty to expel them from the area. He criticized the wrong perception in the West that Iran will, under the pressure of destitution, relinquish its national interests. He said: Iran has not the slightest intention of establishing relations with the United States which has frozen billions of dollars of Iranian assets and committed many crimes.

On the economic situation in Iran, the president of the Islamic Republic said: If you compare the situation in France after World War II and the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran after eight years of war, then you can see that Iran's situation is satisfactory and deserves appreciation and admiration.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Arabic Friday Sermon

Discusses Current Crisis

NC1210195090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Friday sermon delivered by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 12 October—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Praise be to God Almighty and peace be upon the Prophet of God, his family, and the righteous servants of God.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recently celebrated the week of Muslim unity. Muslim 'ulema, representing the various Muslim sects, undertook a study of ways to develop this unity and coordinate among Muslims with a view to defending the lands of Islam and the Muslims and of struggling against atheism, injustice, and tyranny.

They also considered the proposal of the great leader of the Islamic revolution on activating the association in charge of bringing Muslim sects closer. However, in the current critical circumstances, we are witnessing differences and clashes in most Islamic areas. Following these clashes, the forces of world athiesm brought their troops to the region in great numbers under the pretext of confronting Iraq's illegal invasion of Kuwait, as well as the UN Security Council resolutions on ending the aggression.

However, the presence of the foreign troops is nothing more than a serious threat to Muslims and their sanctities. The potential negative consequences of this presence certainly create cause for concern. Therefore, we see usurper Israel using this ill-omened dispute, which divided the Muslim world into two rival groups, to expand the scope of its tyranny and oppression against and merciless annihilation of the oppressed Palestinians. The voices of Israel's unjust defenders and those who fathered this illegitimate entity are being raised high, even if this is only done for the sake of appearances.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, hopes of reuniting the Muslim world around the Koran and Islam filled the hearts of Muslims. This certainly created concern among atheists in the world. By lighting the fuse of the imposed war, the atheists shattered these hopes and succeeded in obstructing Muslim unity for a few years.

No sooner had the fire of war been extinguished and victory seemed within reach, then the aggression against Kuwait took place. This put Muslim countries on the road to division, polarization, hostility, and dispute.

This time, those who had closed the ranks against the Islamic republic were divided into two groups. Surprisingly enough, Sunnite 'ulema adopted hostile stands which agree with those of their governments which, in turn, were divided into two groups. If one group appointed certain governments, it claimed to do so in the name of Islam.

At a time when large numbers of Zionist immigrants are flowing into the occupied Palestinian territories with the support of world atheism, the cheap Zionist [word indistinct] to kill hope in the hearts of Muslim Palestinians and displace people is increasing daily. Political hypocrisy and exploitation grow through the adoption of deceptive and false stands. The primary cause of such a situation may be the false claims of commitment to Islam and the Koran. How true are the words of the imam of all righteous Muslims ['Ali Ibn-Abu-Talib]) when he says: People are the slaves of worldly things and religion is only a [word indistinct] on their tongues.

Modern societies are Islamic only in appearance. Undoubtedly, the only possible way to rescue the Muslims and their grandeur is to be sincerely committed to Islam and to hold tightly to that strong tie as a way to achieve unity.

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, Say: He is God the one and only; God the eternal, absolute. He begetteth not, nor is He begotten. And there is non like unto Him. [Koranic verse]. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Gives Second Friday Sermon

LD1210201590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 12 October in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Before I discuss the main aspects of the sermon, I would like to thank our great ummah once again for the alertness and devotion they displayed in the elections for the [Assembly of] Experts.

The calculations and forecasts of political observers were that this time problems caused by rivalries and the feelings that arise from intense rivalry would prevent the presence of the people in sufficient numbers in the [elections to the Assembly of] Experts, and the turnout would be low. In elections throughout the world in those places that are free, they sensationalize rivalries to the extent that someone may feel that if they do not vote, they may lose out in their factionalism and trends.

Of course, in the Assembly of Experts elections, the factors were not the best. First, the duties of the Assembly of Experts are not connected with the daily problems of the people, like the Islamic Consultative Majles or the president, or the other councils. Second, those who are elected, those who deserve to be candidates according to the law, are so few in number that the vast majority of the Ummah do not see grounds to be present in that arena. Especially in these elections, where in many constituencies there were not enough candidates as required by the ballot box. In some places, there were as many candidates as there were seats. The people believe that their presence on the scene, the casting of their votes, and the expression of their opinion on an important subject like the Assembly of Experts concerns the issue of leadership, effects support for and the health of the revolution. This is the main reason why the people voted. We saw that a high number of votes were cast. I sincerely and humbly thank this great, aware, and alert Ummah. For my own part, I sincerely thank the people of Tehran and the Tehran Province who trusted me and voted for me in considerable numbers. I pray that I am successful and that I execute the duties that have been bestowed upon me so I may not lose face in front of God and the people. [passage omitted]

We shall continue with the main issue of the day. This is the problems of Palestine and the Persian Gulf. They are interlinked, but I shall discuss them independently so that the issues of unity, Palestine, and the Persian Gulf can be considered.

As you know, we are today witnessing one of the most abominable and shameful scenes in modern human society. That is, what occurred in Al-Aqsa' Mosque, in occupied Israel, where the Zionists riddled defenseless Muslims with bullets and martyred or injured hundreds. Those cruel and ruthless soldiers did not even bat an eye and took the lifeless, tattered bodies to hospitals or graveyards.

Certain people in the world can be said to have shown a reaction. But those in charge of world affairs seem to have no conscience. Such incidents are unimportant to them. If they say anything, it is deceitful and just for the sake of saying something in the face of the objections raised at them. That is what it seems like.

When the Kuwaiti incident occurred, you saw how quickly the Security Council acted. It passed resolution after resolution. Armed forces were dispatched to implement the Security Council resolution. Well, they never did such things in Palestine, right from the start. Now, even if they wanted to act deceitfully, they should have acted better than the way they are now, so their lies would not be so obviously evident now.

America sends many forces to defend Kuwait's independence. Why does she oppose a strongly worded—as far as American is concerned, in our view, a very mild—

resolution against Israel, or the investigative team the UN wanted to send to the region. I really cannot understand this. Those who are there have buried their heads in the sand like ostrich. They have shut their eyes and cannot imagine that others in the world can understand, judge, and express views. Are the people of America and the West so placid and uniformed? One knows that public opinion counts there. How could they not understand these things?

If an investigative team was dispatched by the Security Council to Palestine to look into the incident, what would happen? America says the secretary-general should send the team, not the Security Council. That is because those on the Security Council who select the people would select unbiased and conscientious people. The secretary-general might select other people. That's what it boils down to. America is resisting so an investigative team that comes here [to Palestine] does not really investigate the matter.

That is very disgraceful. Such an attitude is a sign of infinite pride, unfairness, and injustice in the eyes of fairminded and thinking people. This comes from a person who is sending so many soldiers, ships, and aircraft to the region in the name of rescuing Kuwait. They are answerable to history on this. Of course, because of the pride and peculiar attitude which stem from arrogance, their evaluation of the situation is different.

Well, they [Americans] and Israel aside, I want to talk about ourselves, the Islamic peoples, and what the Muslims are doing in this important Islamic issue.

We just marked Unity Week. We know that when unity is discussed it is always said that if the world of Islam is united on certain issues, such incidents would not occur, that they [Muslims] would be able to put up a defense. [passage omitted on repetitive material]

There are one billion Muslims. There are 50 independent [Muslims] countries. We have the most acute of weapons—oil and gas—at our disposal. No other weapon in the world is as important as oil, not the atomic bomb, the hydrogen bomb, or intercontinental missiles. All we have to do is to use the oil weapon to attain our rights.

But, the Islamic countries do not do so. Why? We shall look into it. Perhaps, God willing, those who concerned with the future of Islam and the Muslims may start to think about finding a solution. [passage omitted]

Next, it requires a single goal on the whole. In other words, ideology should be such that it gives a single goal to people, to these governments. In our view, the necessary consciousness, the necessary thinking, the necessary level of Islamic thinking, which would provide a single goal for Islamic societies does not yet exist. Although we are on the way, there is to a large extent [sentence unfinished as heard]

After that, let us assume that the goal is possible—that all Muslims have a single goal in the world about the world's social issues, and so on. Then the way to achieve that goal becomes important. How do we move toward that goal? What road should we choose? The principles of our method require a single strategy. It is very, very difficult now, with the existing situation in Islamic countries, for us to choose a single strategy about the social issues of the world of Islam.

As for tactics, well, there are as many tactics as there are sects, factions, and approaches. I speak in general terms, assuming that our Islamic society is, on the whole, like a party acting in a unified manner throughout the world, about all issues.

I said that so that I could move on to the second part of my remarks. That is, if we are not able to adopt a single strategy on all the issues in the world, to have the single goal, and to choose unified tactics for advancement, we can still be united in specific cases. As to these specific matters, however, we must now accept that the world of Islam is committing a sin, is being neglectful about achieving those specific feasible goals.

In Islam, of course, this issue has been foreseen and resolved. In other words, the solution is founded in Islam. We have a problem with implementation. In the time of the noble prophet, when his holiness was alive, he himself was the marja' [source of authority]. Everyone who differed about any of the issues I have mentioned could ask the prophet. The prophet would issue the order. That order was obeyed, and the differences were not revealed. [passage omitted]

The imam, the imamate, which we bring into the principles of our religion as a requirement and as a principle, plays that role. The prophesy in its own time, and the Imamate, both at the time of the prophet and afterwards, have the role of guiding, unifying, doing away with differences and commanding. Unfortunately, after the prophet, the imamate ran into problems in the world of Islam. After the prophet, the imamate is possibly the greatest problem of the world of Islam. A [universally accepted] axis which could bring together all these forces, resources, differences, and ideas, and which could command and utter the final word before others no longer existed. Different religions [different branches of Islam] with different imams stood against each other, rather than facing the enemy, and it has remained this way until today, when things are as we see.

Looking at our own society—I can give the best example by returning to ourselves—you know what the role of the imamate has been during the past ten, twelve, years, the years of the revolution. We felt it. If the imam of the ummah had not been among us, and if he had not been at the helm of our ship in the turbulent waters of life, if he had not commanded this force toward the goal, we would have foundered time after time. Differences and problems always reach a point which may lead us to the point of no return.

Leadership after the imam has been our strong point. Of course, it was not an important matter when you look at our country's concerns as a whole. In any case, there were some differences of opinion about the candidates for the Assembly of Experts. But even such an issue is enough to split a society, to place it in confrontation with itself, and even to result in street battles. It is enough. We have had many such issues. When the leader stepped in and uttered the final word, when he made a deciding remark, we saw that it was as if water had been poured on a fire. Everything moved toward a correct election. That is the meaning of imamate.

We do not have such an imamate at the level of Islamic societies as a whole, unfortunately. We have it within our own confines, and we benefit from it. With that same unity, we fought alone against all those satans. We have solved the problems of the revolution to the present time. God willing, in the future as well, we will travel that path correctly, because of the understanding which people have developed and the faith which people have placed in the concept of Velayat [vice-regency of a supreme jurisconsult] and the leadership.

However, the world of Islam suffers from the absence of that. You can now see that the issue of Kuwait has split Islamic countries into two groups. One group on this side, the other group on that side. No one among them can say: I command that it should be such and such a way; Islam commands this. Even the Ulema have turned upon each other. Egyptian and Saudi Arabian Ulema issue one kind of fatwa [religious edict], Iraqi and Algerian Ulema issue another kind. Well, that is the meaning of division.

We do not think that at the time of the prophet the people would not say anything, or would not think anything. Everyone thought, everyone was free, everyone said things, and to some extent they confronted each other. The Koran commanded: if you have differences over an issue, you must refer to the prophet and you must accept what he says, and if you do not accept you are not a Muslim. [passage omitted] The marja' for resolving differences is the imamate, which carries out that task. Unfortunately, we do not have that in the world of Islam today. The issue of Palestine has no owner. Who will defend Palestine today? With what strategy? There is not even an imam among the Palestinians themselves for this task. Some of them want a strategy of armed struggle, other want a political struggle. Who is to say which. Both may be sincere. They may fall upon each other, and kill each other, thinking they are doing a good thing, defending Palestine.

Some people took the Camp David path. Others took another path. We did not see either of them attain anything. Movements splitting off from each one can also be found. A population without an imam, without a leader, an acceptable leader—the conditions we stipulated for the leader in our Constitution are serious requirements for a leader. [sentence as heard] He must be a mojtahed [an accepted Islamic theologian] so he understands, so he speaks in the name of Islam. He cannot be an imitator. He must have views about everything. He must be just, so one may be sure that once he has understood, he will not tell a lie. He must be brave, so that fear does not force him to not speak the truth and to wait to see what happens. He must be powerful, so he can guide the disputing population, so he can use the correct policy in dealing with opinions and ideas. With these qualifications, a leader can give guidance.

I want to refer to the correctness of the ideology of Shiism. In practice, it has shown that without an imam, without a commander, without decisive leadership—which at certain times is infallible where the principles have not yet been defined and at other times is nearly infallible and on par with the immaculate, due to justice, due to the struggle against carnal desires, and other qualities which should exist in the person of the leader—this would be a path for the salvation of Islamic countries.

This may not exist in the global context of the entire Islamic community, but we can think of it in connection with specific instances. This is how our ulema think. The ulema who came together in this year's unity conference, and who are preparing for the Council of Unification [Majma'-e Taqrib-e Mazaheb-e Eslami] which has been proposed by the leader, should think following this line. For occasional [Maqta'i] or events, like the issue of Kuwait, [which involves] the aggression of one Islamic country against another Islamic country, like the issue of Palestine, which we are so afflicted with, such as the issue of oil, Islamic countries are selling their oil cheaper than water, this is not an exaggeration, they are really presenting it to the economic leeches of the world and world capitalists, the same people who are behaving in such a way towards us over a price cheaper than the price of water. These issues require a marja who will pass judgement, who will describe one action as blasphemy, describe the other action as injustice, describe another action as treason to Islam, so the Islamic countries may decide. In OPEC, we Islamic countries sit together. It is possible that the minister of a country such as [Saudi] Arabia or the emirates [UAE] may be able to waste all Islamic wealth with his vote. We witnessed two or three months ago when we were forced to sell our oil at seven, eight, or nine dollars, 10 or 12 dollars. [figures as heard] What a crime that was! The oil which drilled from the sea costs almost as much to obtain, due to its high cost.

[Excerpts] For dealing with the occasional problems which the Islamic world faces, for the sake of achieving unity faster, gathering should be convened in the Islamic countries. Islamic ulema should get together, the thinkers and politicians should get together. They should think of a way to solve these occasional issues by using a source of authority [marja'iyat] with a decree, with leadership, with a joint decision. They should use the great human resources of the ocean of Islamic community so they will not be so much under the yoke of the aliens, the infidels, and the domination of imperialists in the way we are now affected. One truly feels a sens of inferiority, because despite having such an ideology, such a path, Islamic and human issues are still dealt with in the same way.

Unfortunately, one of the problems we suffer from now is that those who speak of Islam are not telling the truth. They are engaged mainly in factionalism. They are mainly thinking of their own interests and of their own positions. They are interested in securing their own rule. A country may say that it is Islamic, but we know that he says this in order to deceive the Muslims. If we are Muslims, we should die for Islam. We should sacrifice our government, our leadership, our position, our job, our popularity, for the sake of Islam whenever necessary. If we act in that way, then it will be true. However, on the issue of Palestine, when we see that a government thinks that if it supports the Muslims, that America will be angry with it and will later topple it, and so it submits to the American view, we cannot go to the same trench with him in the name of Islam. Such a person will leave one alone halfway on the road and will flee. Those who for the sake of material ambitions enter the field of battle in the name of Islam will be very week comrades-in-arms. Sincerity is one of the essential factors of the work. Piety is the main essence, so we can perform the tasks placed on our shoulders.

God willing, the events now taking place, and the tyranny and oppression being practised in Afghanistan, in Kashmir, in Lebanon, in Palestine, in Sudan, and in many other places, against oppressed and sincere Muslims will make Muslims more aware, and will enable them to think of a common leadership, at least for sensitive junctures and sensitive issues, so our common understanding will make of us a single ummah with one book, with one imam, with one path and one Qibla [direction in which Mulsims pray], God willing. [crowd chants slogans] [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Says Ready To Free Jerusalem

LD1310135790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The politico-ideological organization of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics has issued a statement condemning the bestial crimes of the Zionist executioners in martyring a large number of innocent and defenseless Palestinian Muslims. It announced:

Obeying the commands of the late imam [Khomeyni] and the instructions of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, the brave offspring of Islam are ready to go to all battlefronts alongside their self-sacrificing Muslim Palestinian brothers against the Zionist pagans, to free honorable Jerusalem.

IRGC To Commemorate Al-Aqsa Martyrs 15 Oct

LD1410123490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The Islamic Revolution Gurds Corps [IRGC] has issued a statement announcing that the memorial ceremony marking the seventh day after the martyrdom of the martyrs of occupied Palestine will be held tomorrow afternoon in Palestine Square. The statement says: The ceremoney is being held to commemorate the seventh day after the martyrdom of the al-Aqsa mosque's martyrs and to honor the memory of those dear martyrs, who were martyred on bloody Monday by the mercenaries of the regime occupying al-Quds [Jerusalem].

Elsewhere in the statement, it says: The brave guards and basijis [mobilization forces] of the IRGC and various strata of the people will march from the location of the den of spies [U.S. Embassy] and Tehran University toward Palestine Square and will gather in the square at 1500 [1130 GMT] to express their revulsion of the al- Quds usurping regime. In its statement, the IRGC invites the various strata of the people to add to the splendor of the ceremony by taking part. [passage omitted]

'Millions' Reported To Mourn Al-Aqsa Deaths

LD1210175590 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—Millions of Iranian people participating in Friday congregational prayers nation-wide today chanted "Death to Zionism" and "Death to Israel" in condemnation of Monday's massacre of scores of Palestinians at Al-Aqsa Mosque. In Tehran, a large number of people gathering inside and outside Tehran University to perform Friday prayers mourned the deaths of the Palestinians, calling on the Muslim world to show an "effective reaction" to the cold-blood massacre by the Zionist regime.

Addressing the gathering, called for by the leaders of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei, Hojatoleslam Baghani castigated the world community for its silence and the United Nations for its "ineffective" measures against the carnage. Baghani, who is the leader's representative to the Shahid Beheshti University's medical college, vowed "the Islamic Republic and the vigilant people of Iran will continue supporting the innocent people of Palestine but will never remain silent vis-a-vis such crimes."

On Thursday, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei called for mourning ceremonies to be held nation-wide in memory of the Palestinian martyrs. President Rafsanjani declared Friday as a national mourning day. Baghani said "global arrogance has now kept mum on all these crimes and if the Security Council wants to take a mild action or send a fact-finding team to probe the Zionist regime's crimes, the criminal U.S. will veto it."

"The Security Council has issued 10 resolutions on Iraq's invasion of a tiny country, whose leaders are quite strangers to Islam, within only two months, while it has ignored the massacre of the innocent people of Palestine over the past 40 years," he said.

Besharati on Need For Struggle Against Israel

LD1410123690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report Mr. Besharati, the deputy foreign minister, accompanied by the director-generals of the Arabian Middle-East and Ceremonies Departments of the Foreign Ministry, went to the Palestinian Embassy an signed a book commemorating the martyrdom of a number of Palestinian Muslims at al-Aqsa Mosque.

During the visit, while praising the Muslim people of Palestine for their resistance against the Zionist criminals, Mr. Besharati stressed the importance of all-round struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Velayati Discusses 'Awn, Egyptian Relations

LD1510102990 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview that the Islamic Republic welcomes the fall of Lebanon's rebellious General Michel 'Awn and considers it "a positive move" towards the war-shattered country's stability.

"What happened in Lebanon indicates that major developments are taking place in that country," he told the morning daily ABRAR in remarks published today. The foreign minister added that the trend of the events seemed to be towards unity, stability and sovereignty of the Lebanese Government. "The Lebanese Government has now the support of Syria and several other Arab countries."

Michel 'Awn's two years of rebellion, destruction and massacre in Lebanon ended on Saturday by Syria and the fugitive army general has now taken asylum in the French Embassy in Beirut. France which supported 'Awn has promised him asylum but the government of Ilyas al-Hirawi wants to put 'Awn on trial as a war criminal.

On the future of Lebanon, he said the Lebanese people must decide their own destiny and "Iran supports the will of the majority of the Lebanese people." He reiterated that the Iranian Government was for the coming to power of a popular government favored by the majority of the Lebanese people.

Touching on Iran's ties with Egypt and Jordan, he said that Iran has not established ties with these two countries. Commenting on the last Saturday's statements of Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali who voiced his country's desire for having ties with Iran, he said Iran has not established ties with that country. "Nor have we any intention to do so because our problem with Egypt is that of the Camp David."

Egypt is the only Arab state to sign a humiliating peace accord (Camp David) with the Zionist regime in 1978. Turning to the Persian Gulf crisis, he said Iran welcomes and supports a just and honourable political solution coupled with the complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

He stressed that Iran is against the use of force and occupation of others' territories. Velayati criticised the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] for not taking serious and practical steps to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis. "We expected the movement to take a serious move independent from those by the superpowers but this has not materialised," He regretted and attributed the failure to a lack of solidarity among the NAM member states.

Government May Seek Soviet Aid on Reactors

LD1410071190 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] London, Oct. 14, IRNA—The Iranian Government is pressing ahead with plans to install nuclear power generation capacity and will seek Soviet help to build reactors if Germany continues to refuse to complete the war-damaged Bushehr plant.

Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation (AEOI) chief, Reza Amrollahi, last month strongly criticised the "unacceptable attitude" of Germany in refusing to allow "Kraftwerk Union (KWU)" to complete the Bushehr reactor, adding that the Soviets may be asked "to build other ones".

Amrollahi in an interview with IRNA in Vienna in September warned that Iran was waiting for a final decision by Bonn on the issue "to take appropriate measures". A nuclear co-operation agreement was signed with Moscow in June 1989 during President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit there.

According to the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED), KWU began building the 2,400-mw twin reactor plant before the 1979 revolution and had completed most of the structure by the start of the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran started in 1980. The company withdrew all its staff from Iran in 1987 after several Iraqi air attacks on the plant, and the German Government in Bonn said an export license for the machinery and equipment would have to wait until the signing of a peace agreement between Iran and Iraq.

A peace accord is now being finalised, but the German Government is said to be reluctant to give the go-ahead, claiming that it is because of continuing tension in the Persian Gulf region since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2nd of this year. KWU says it is ready to resume work once the German Government issues export licenses.

Completion of one of the two reactors, according to MEED, will cost at least four billion deutsche marks (around 3 billion dollars) and the final cost may well be much higher, industry experts say. It will involve a construction period of more than four years and over 2 billion dollars has already been spent on the facility.

Final Voting Results Given for Experts' Elections

LD1110185290 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—The following is the final results of the elections for the second (eight-year) term of the Experts Assembly, as announced by the Interior Ministry's elections headquarters tonight.

A total of 1,907,622 votes were counted in the 20 constituencies of the capital. Those elected from the capital are:

1) Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani	1,604,834
2) Ahmad Khomeyni	1,500,080
3) 'Ali Meshkini	1,186,209
4) Mohammad Emami-Kashani	1,114,911
5) Mohammad Yazdi	1,019,278
6) Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani	844,713
7) Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri	755,449
8) Abolqasem Asadi Khonsari	742,057
9) Mohammad Beqeri Kani	694,614
10) Hashem Rasuli Mahallati	639,204
11) Ahmad Azari Qomi	624,393
12) Gholamreza Rezvani	587,919
13) Mohieddin Anvari	566,739
14) Rasti Kashani	557,586
15) Hadi Khosrowshahi	547,190
16) Jalal Taher Shams	518,190

Elections were not held in three provinces of Gilan, Bushehr, and Sistan-Baluchestan where the number of the candidates were not enough. The total votes counted in 21 constituencies throughout the country were 11,602,613.

Meanwhile, Abolqasem Sarhadi-Zadeh was elected from Tehran in the Majles by-elections held simultaneously last Monday obtaining 614,142 out of 1,181,181 of votes. The other Majles candidate was Habibollah Asgarowladi.

*Khalkhali Views Military Unity With Iraq

90AS0470P London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] In the open session on 9 September, Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali called for a military treaty between Iran and Iraq against Israel.

As a pre-agenda speaker, he expressed pleasure in the visit of Tariq 'Aziz, the foreign minister of Iraq, and said: The visit of Mr. Tariq 'Aziz will open the doors of unity between the nations of Iran and Iraq against aggressive and bloodthirsty Israel, which is what the entire Iranian and Iraqi nations and all Muslims in the Middle East and elsewhere want.

Concerning the condemnation of Saddam Husayn for occupying Kuwait, he also expressed doubt and said: If Saddam is to be condemned, Muslim nations know themselves how to condemn him. Therefore, the gathering of the two superpowers in Helsinki will solve no problem for us.

Contrary to all international political analysts, Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali claimed that there were deep differences between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki.

*Food Reportedly Exported Through Western Border

90AS0470H London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] Local merchants and smugglers of food and pharmaceutical items on the Iran-Iraq border, taking advantage of the needs of that country for various food items and other consumer goods, have increased their illegal export of such items to the Iraqi border towns.

Exclusive reports from Western Azarbaijan, Kurdistan, Lorestan, and Khuzestan indicate that at present, the border lines near Soleymaniyeh in Iraq and the border city of Oshnuyeh have become major centers for exporting to Iraq smuggled goods, especially foodstuff, drugs, meat, sugar cubes and sugar, rice, cooking oil, and other similar items.

A reporter who has recently returned from northwestern Iran told KEYHAN that a major part of the foodstuff smuggled into Iraq is purchased by border dwellers and local smugglers from Turkish cities and are transported to Iraq through secondary mountain roads. This reporter added that the local exchange markets which have been erected in the past two years in some of the border areas of Western Azarbaijan Province with Turkey play a major role in the transaction of goods and serve as a medium for export into Iraq. According to sporadic reports from the western parts of Iran, in the past few weeks an equipped network for transactions of all sorts of consumer goods, made up of a number of peddlers, tradesmen, and truck drivers residing on the border towns of the Provinces of Kermanshahan and in parts of Khuzestan, export a major portion of agricultural and animal husbandry goods and traditional and semi-industrial and pharmaceutical products of the area to Iraq in exchange for cash. Then traders use all sorts of motorized and non-motorized vehicles to send the goods in question to Iraq, transporting their goods at night through the unguarded and unpatrolled border areas. Apparently, the regime of Iraq has instructed its border patrols and combat units stationed in these areas not to prevent such traffic.

The HERALD TRIBUNE published in Paris, quoting in a recent issue a politically active anti-Islamic regime group, wrote that at present, Iranian shepherds and animal farmers residing on the Iran-Iraq border are engaged in exporting their illegal livestock into that country. This newspaper added: "Apparently Iranian animal farmers, making use of mountain roads, have succeeded last week in exporting one million heads of sheep to Iraq and receiving gold in exchange from Iraqi buyers." Simultaneous with the expansion of the activities of the smugglers of goods and foodstuff from Iran to Iraq, U.S. newspapers, quoting Iraqi oil officials, announced that the regime of Baghdad is trying to export 600,000 barrels of crude oil to Iran daily in exchange for foodstuff, medicine, and other needed items from the Islamic Republic. The above report was made when some of the international news agencies and world media have published unconfirmed reports concerning secret transactions between the Islamic Republic and Iraq in the area of receiving oil from that country and the delivery of foodstuff and medicine. The HERALD TRIBUNE wrote that although the officials of the Islamic Republic have denied the secret agreement between Baghdad and Tehran regarding the sale of oil, many experts believe that at the present time Iraq exports some oil on a daily basis with trucks and small ships, which after being refined in Iranian refineries is used for domestic consumption.

John Block, the Middle East analyst for INDEPENDENT, published in London, also wrote an article entitled "The Clerics Are Sleeping With the Devil That Is Familiar" and, referring to the commercial exchanges between the Islamic Republic and Iraq, wrote that apparently Tariq 'Aziz and the Iraqi minister of petroleum, during their recent visit to Tehran, have convinced the officials of the Islamic regime to deliver foodstuff and medicine to Iraq in exchange for crude oil. The above-mentioned analyst pointed out in his report that although the Islamic Republic is one of the major exporters of crude oil, that country is obliged to purchase oil products from abroad for domestic consumption.

John Block added: "Iraq is able to use the equipped transport means at its disposal to carry this crude oil to Iran. These means consist of special trucks which were used by the Iraqi regime during the eight-year war with the Islamic Republic to carry oil to the Port of Aqaba."

An Iranian merchant residing in London told KEYHAN that in the past few weeks, Iranian orders to purchase consumer goods, foodstuff, and medicine have increased over what they were in the past. If the reports concerning the export of such goods to Iraq are true, it becomes evident that there is a direct link between the increase in orders in recent days and the export of goods to Iraq. This businessman added: "At present, many Iranian merchants and importers, taking advantage of the competitive, high rate of foreign currency, are registering major orders to import foodstuff, medicine, and other similar goods, and the officials of the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Commerce, by providing banking and import facilities, are encouraging these merchants to import such items as much as possible."

*State Increasing Crude Oil Production

90AS0470I London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] Last August, the Islamic Republic increased its crude oil production of 3.2 million barrels per day by 300,000 barrels per day compared to July of this year. According to a report in a publication, MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES), published in Nicosia, the increase in oil production by the Islamic Republic is to compensate for part of the shortages that have occurred in the world oil market as a result of the halt in production of Iraq and Kuwait.

The above weekly publication announced in its report that the 13 members of OPEC last August produced about 19.7 million barrels of crude oil per day, which compared to July of this year is a decrease of about 4 million barrels per day. The analyst of the above-mentioned publication considered the decrease in the production of crude oil by OPEC to be the result of the halt in the production of oil by Kuwait and the prevention of Iraqi oil exports to the world markets.

According to the MEES: "Even though considering the political conditions governing Kuwait the production of crude oil in that country was expected to stop altogether, reports indicate that last August Kuwait produced about 150,000 barrels of oil per day." The above-mentioned publication mentioned Kuwait's oil production in July as 1.75 million barrels a day and added: "Last August, Iraq decreased its crude oil production from 3.28 million barrels per day to 700,000 barrels, thus the continuation of the crisis in the Persian Gulf decreased the total production of oil in Kuwait and Iraq by about 4-4.2 million barrels per day."

Simultaneous with the decrease in the supply of oil on the world market, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and several other members of OPEC tried to create a balance between supply and demand in this market by increasing production. Reports from the OPEC administrative office in Vienna indicate that the recent steps by these few countries to increase production could not stop the increase in oil prices. The price of this substance last week, disregarding the few fluctuations, increased to $34-$35 per barrel. International energy experts believe that if the Persian Gulf crisis continues and the military combat formation by the Western countries increases in that region, the crude oil price curve will continue to ascend, and the price of oil is expected, with the coming of the cold season and the increased demand over supply, to increase to $40-$45 per barrel. A trade expert said some time ago that at present none of the members of OPEC is able to produce more than what it already delivers to the market. The above expert added: "Among the OPEC members, only the Islamic Republic was able to increase its production significantly. And that country as well, considering its neglect and lack of expertise in protecting the oil wells during the eight years of war with Iraq, lacks the necessary capability to increase production." This energy expert pointed out that Iran's oil production capability will not exceed a maximum of 4.1-4.3 million barrels per day until 1995 due to technical problems. He added: "That country needs 800,000 to a million barrels per day for domestic consumption and delivers 3-3.2 million barrels per day to the world markets." This expert pointed out that the statements of the oil officials of the Islamic Republic concerning that country's hopes to produce at the level of its quota is a fruitless and baseless claim. The truth is that essentially at present, Iran does not have the capability to produce more than 3.3-3.4 million barrels per day.

Increase in Foreign Currency Revenues of Iran

Early last week, during his visit to Shahrud, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum, said to reporters: "Under the present circumstances, we export oil within the framework of our quota. The market situation is good. There is much demand for Iranian oil and the latest price for Iranian oil on the world market was $28 per barrel."

The Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum added: "Our country at the present time is the safest region for the sale and delivery of oil. Under the present circumstances, we can have $700-$800 million in revenue increases for the current programs of the country."

According to a report in PETROLEUM STRATEGY early this week, Fateh Dubayy crude oil was traded for $30.80 per barrel. Thus, the price of this kind of crude oil has increased by 135 percent in less than two months. The above-mentioned publication pointed out in its report that the producers of oil in the Persian Gulf and other areas of the world, with their access to additional foreign currency earnings, will be able to solve some of their economic problems and by increasing their imports from industrial countries transfer a part of the foreign currency revenues to those countries as well.

*Government Divided Over News From Abroad

90AS0470N London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 12

[Text] A few months after the revolution, the Islamic government had decided to prohibit the purchase and sale and even the owning of shortwave radios in Iran. After this plan was studied, the implementation of which was considered "impossible" by experts, it was abandoned, because at that time only North Korea and Albania prohibited people from having shortwave radios in order to keep them from being freely informed about what is happening in the world. Except in these two countries, the prohibition of shortwaves did not succeed in any country and would not have succeeded in Iran either.

In these 12 years of the revolution, listening to foreign radios, especially those that broadcast a few hours of Persian programs, is for Iranians a way to both spend their leisure hours and acquire rapid information about what is happening in the world.

But today, the majority of Iranians have their eyes on a new event, watching the world through the eyes of television, the programs of which are broadcast via satellite and can be sent without any censorship to any television screen anywhere in the world. For a while, the propaganda operators of the Islamic Republic have been preparing themselves to confront this new phenomenon. Mohammad Rafsanjani, the general manager of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, in a gathering of clerics objecting to the present television problems on "religious" grounds, said, "Let the gentlemen's minds be at ease, because in a few months, with the start of satellite programs in Iran, no one, not even in the villages, will be watching our programs!"

In this regard, as well, there are differences of opinion in the government. One group believes that programs must be prepared and broadcast that can compete with the satellite programs, whereas another group holds that the news films of television must be censored and television films selected and censored as before. One group even proposed that from now on the owners of television sets give written promises to avoid watching satellite programs as a "religious prohibition!"

Pakistan

Minister Discusses Nuclear Nonproliferation Stance

Wants South Asia Nuclear-Free

BK1310114790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Oct 90 p 1

[By Shahid Saleem]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 12—The Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said that Pakistan wanted to make South Asia a genuine nuclear non-proliferation region and has put up proposals which should be properly attended to.

The Foreign Minister drew attention of the United States Secretary of State James Baker towards Pakistan's proposals already put forth for a long time during their recent meeting in the USA.

Both the leaders exchanged views on a number of important subjects of interest and concern to both the countries.

The Foreign Minister, who attended 45th session of United Nations General Assembly in New York on return to Pakistan said that he briefed Mr. James Baker on Pakistan's efforts to maintain dialogue with India and the efforts under way to resolve the Afghanistan problem and the present situation in the Persian Gulf.

He said that bilateral ties figured in the talks during which Mr. Baker expressed his concern regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme and its possible fall out on American assistance.

The Foreign Minister explained Pakistan's nuclear programme for peaceful purposes and assured him that Pakistan neither possesses nuclear weapons nor has any intention to make nuclear weapons. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that in this regard he drew his attention to

Pakistan's proposals aimed at briefing about a genuine non-proliferation region in South Asia.

Talking about the Pressler amendment certificate, the Foreign Minister said that this is presently under review by the U.S. Administration. He said that high level discussions are going on between the two countries to resolve the issue.

He described his talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze "cordial and fruitful" and said that he discussed with him the new global order, disarmament, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and non-proliferation in South Asia.

"We also had a survey of the world scene which covered an interchange of views on a number of other important subjects".

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the Soviet Union has a genuine desire to intensify and expand relations with us.

He said that this was a desire which we warmly reciprocate. The Foreign Minister expressed his happiness over consensus resolution on Afghanistan which, he said, "augurs well for future endeavours to reach a just and durable settlement of the Afghanistan problem which should be acceptable to the overwhelming majority of the people of Afghanistan". Sahabzada Yaqub Khan during his stay in New York held talks with a large number of Foreign Ministers from Islamic and other countries and briefed them on the situation in the region.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan particularly highlighted the situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir where the people have risen to demand their right of self-determination. He also told them about India's repressive measures against the people of Kashmir. He briefed them about massing of Indian troops on Pakistan's borders which had created "tensions" in Pakistan-India relations.

The Foreign Minister also held a meeting with the UN Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China Mr. Qian Qichen, Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Ali Bozer and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan discussed with them matters of mutual interest and briefed them in detail on the situation in Indian occupied Kashmir, Afghanistan and the situation in Gulf which threatens the peace and stability of the entire region.

Report on Nuclear Furnaces Denied

BK1310155490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has described as baseless and mischievous the WASHINGTON POST report alleging Pakistan had made a clandestine attempt to acquire two high temperature furnaces which, according to the paper, could be used to produce nuclear weapons. The spokesman regretted that there are elements and groups operating in the United Sates who have the obvious intentions of creating apprehensions and misgivings about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program.

President Meets on Army Role for Election Days

BK1410153590 Islambad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 13—Army Chief Mirza Aslam Beg and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan have reportedly held separate "important" meetings with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential palace] here today.

Gen. Aslam Beg who returned to the capital after attending a 2-day meeting of corps commanders in Lahore, is said to have apprised the President about Army's role in maintaining law and order on polling days—Oct 24 to Oct 27.

No official word on the meeting between the two was however, available.

The army security plan for the election, it is believed, is prepared in accordance with the demand of the Chief Election Commission who recently conveyed its requirements for holding free, fair and impartial elections.

The matter of deploying troops in some "sensitive" constituencies also reportedly came under discussion between the two.

The army chief is said to have briefed the president on army's track on saboteurs who are trying to disrupt the election campaign.

The two also reportedly exchanged views on current border situation with particular reference to concentration of Indian troops on the border.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in his meeting is understood to have briefed the President for his talks with US Secretary of State, James Baker, and Soviet Foreign Minister, Shevardnadze, in New York.

Sahabzada Yaqub, is understood to have expressed hope that the American government would shortly reconsider its earlier decision of suspending the military and economic aid to Pakistan.

Lahore High Court Upholds Dissolution of Assembly

BK1410163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The Lahore High Court today upheld the president's 6 August order dissolving the National Assembly. The full bench headed by the chief justice, Justice Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, dismissed the five constitutional petitions challenging the dissolution of the National Assembly. In its brief judgment today, the court ruled that the president had sufficient material before him to form the opinion that a situation had arisen in which the federal government could not be carried on in accordance with the Constitution, and therefore fresh elections were necessary. The full bench comprised the chief justice, Justice Mohammad Rafiq Tarar; Justice Mahbub Ahmad, Justice Manzoor Hussain Khyal, Justice Ehsanul Haq Chaudhry, and Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

The court pointed out nine grounds on the basis of which the president could have reasonably formed the opinion that the government of the federation could not be run in accordance with the Constitution. These are: The government's failure to enact legislation; its inability to protect Sindh Province from internal disturbances; its failure to hold a meeting of the Council of Common Interests; inordinate delay in the establishment of a National Finance Commission for the allocation of shares of national revenues; erosion of the provincial autonomy guaranteed under the Constitution through launching of the People's Program without enacting any legislation in this regard; violation of the individual rights to privacy and human dignity by tapping telephones of respectable personalities; open ridiculing of the Senate and the judiciary; misuse of secret funds; and large-scale appointments in the civil services in contravention of the law. The brief judgment, read out by the chief justice, said that after having considered the arguments of the counsels from both sides and perusal of the materials submitted by them, they have reached the conclusuion that the president was justified in forming the opinion that the government of the federation could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and that fresh elections were necessary.

The court also dismissed the petition challenging the appointment of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi as the caretaker prime minister, and held that Jatoi's appointment made by the president in exercise of his discretion cannot be legitimately questioned before this court in view of the restrictions contained in Clause 2 of Article 48 of the Constitution.

Jatoi Accuses PPP of Kidnappings in Sindh

Bhutto Said Encouraging Acts

BK1210005690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1901 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Nawabshah, Pakistan, Oct 11 (AFP)—Interim Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi charged Thursday that deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto was encouraging and patronising a new wave of kidnapping in Sindh Province. "Kidnapping and lawlessness were being deliberately committed by her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to discredit the interim government," he said in a speech.

Addressing the bar association in his home constituency of Nawabshah, he said the recent wave of abduction of officers and businessmen in Karachi and other parts of Sindh was unleashed by those who did not wish peace and calm to prevail in the country. Some 50 people have been abducted since the August 6 dismissal of Ms. Bhutto's government and dissolution of Parliament by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who named Mr. Jatoi as prime minister until the October 24 elections.

A retired rear admiral of the Pakistan Navy, Abdul Wahid Bombal, was the latest victim along with three others whisked away by gunmen in Karachi on Wednesday. Ten people were abducted in nearby Hyderabad when unidentified youth stopping vehicles on a highway seized occupants, newspapers here reported.

Official sources meanwhile denied Thursday's press report that Hamid Hanfi, son of the State Bank Governor Imtiaz Alam Hanfi returned home Wednesday after remaining in captivity for more than three weeks. Mr. Hanfi, an officer in Habib Bank Ltd., was abducted on September 17 when he was on way to work with his father.

"There has been no trace of Mr. Hamid Hanfi," the official news agency APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] said quoting sources close to his family. Mr. Jatoi said the former premier was "politically immature" and lacked the qualities of leadership.

"It would be disastrous for Pakistan, if God forbid, the PPP was voted back to power," he said. Mr. Jatoi said that if his Islamic Democratic Alliance came to power, "we would not indulge in political victimisation or policy of revenge," he added.

Further Accusations Against PPP

BK1410025990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1727 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 13 (AFP)—A wave of kidnappings for ransom is causing widespread anxiety and fear among the citizens of this port city, press reports said Saturday. More than 60 people, mostly businessmen, bankers and professionals and their school-going children, have been abducted in the last nine weeks, police said.

Among the kidnapped were a retired admiral, a son of the pakistan state bank [governor], a politician, a former president of the Karachi Stock Exchange, a son of the jewellers' association president, a leading pharmaceutical firm's managing director, and an prominent surgeon at Agha Khan Hospital.

The caretaker chief minister of Sindh, Jam Sadiq Ali, has ordered police to shoot-on-sight any kidnappers. He said in a televised interview that the crimes were politically motivated and pointed an accusing figure at activists in the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the party of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Her government was dismissed August 6 on charges of corruption and abuse of power. The chief minister said PPP activists were trying to destabilise the caretaker administration and were creating an "atmosphere of fear" before the elections scheduled for October 24. Ms. Bhutto has denied the allegations.

Police said while several abductees have been returned, reportedly after paying ransom to their kidnappers, no trace has been found of Retired Admiral Abdul Wahid Bombal, chairman of Pakistan National Shipping Corp. Bashir Jan Mohammad, former president of the Karachi Stock Exchange, returned home recently.

Ansar Burney, chairman of a welfare trust, said that 27 people had secured their release after paying cash to kidnappers. He said the administration had failed to recover even a single person. Two major fires also took place in the city this week.

Supermarkets in busy commerical areas of Liaquatabad and Saddar were set ablaze by unidentified arsonists causing millions of rupees in losses to local merchants. Altaf Hussain, leader of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), has said the victims of the crimes were mostly Urdu-speaking settlers who are opposed to the PPP.

The MQM represents people who migrated from India after its independence in 1947 and settled in the major urban centres of Sindh. The advocate-general of Sindh, Aftab Akhund, informed the full bench of the Sindh high court last week that 530 people were officially listed as killed and 767 others injured in ethnic riots between the Mohajirs and the local Sindhis during the 20-month rule of Ms. Bhutto.

He also told the court, which is hearing three constitutional petitions against the dissolution of the National Assembly, that 1,709 people were kidnapped for ransom or for political reasons in the same period. He said 88 people were killed by terrorists and 231 cases of arson were reported during the PPP government. Meanwhile, police arrested 11 alleged kidnappers last week, officials said.

Afghan Guerrilla Leader Arrives for First Visit

BK1510152690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 15 (AFP)—Afghan guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masud arrived in Islamabad Monday for his first visit to Pakistan since the outbreak 12 years ago of the Afghan war. The legendary guerrilla chief was greeted by hundreds of mujahidin, some of them armed, shouting "Allah-u-akbar" (God is great) and "long live Masud" as he arrived at the headquarters here of his Sunni Jamiat-i-Eslami faction.

The 38-year-old head of the "Northern Council" has never visited Pakistan, where Afghanistan's main Sunni resistance factions have set up a government in exile, since the Soviets invaded his country in 1979. The "Northern Council" is a relatively autonomous political and military structure with thousands of armed members controlling vast sectors of northern Afghanistan near the Soviet border.

The Tadzhik guerrilla chief arrived 48 hours after presiding over a meeting of some 30 top guerrilla field commanders who agreed on a common military strategy to topple Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government before the onset of winter. Mr. Masud is due to meet with political leaders of the resistance here and a meeting with Pakistani officials has not been ruled out.

Pakistan, the United States and Saudi Arabia have been the major backers of the mujahidin in their war against Kabul and its backers in Moscow, which withdrew its troops in February 1989.

Steps Planned To Meet Burden Due to Gulf Crisis

BK1310145890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The government has decided to take concrete steps to meet the additional financial expenditures of between $1.5-$2 billion annually due to the Gulf crisis. This was stated by Kamal Asghar, the prime minister's special assistant, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. He said that so far, nearly 500 million rupees have been spent on the transportation of and cash assistance to 80,000 Pakistanis repatriated from Iraq and Kuwait. A total of 5,000 Pakistanis who are now left in Kuwait will be repatriated to Pakistan soon.

Bhutto Portrayed as Anti-Islam in Election Ad

BK1510110790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1051 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 15 (AFP)—The main rivals of former premier Benazir Bhutto took out election advertisements Monday in several papers linking her to author Salman Rushdie, whose work has been tagged anti-Islam. The ads, paid for by the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), show Mr. Rushdie saying: "If I had to vote in Pakistan, I would pick Benazir." Ms. Bhutto, who was sacked August 6, is running in general elections set for October 24.

Mr. Rushdie is an Indian-born author who has been in hiding since Iran ordered his execution for writing "The Satanic Verses," a novel criticized by many Moslems as blaspheming Islam. Moslems in Pakistan first demonstrated against the novel in February 1989.

The quarter-page ads, published in Urdu in several dailies, also said that Ms. Bhutto, 37, received support from India and Israel during "the dark days of her 20 months in power." The election plugs also linked the former premier to the "Jewish lobby" in Washington, especially U.S. lawmaker Stephen Solarz, who "threatens to interrupt U.S. aid to Pakistan in a show of support for Ms. Bhutto." They also recalled a statement by former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, quoting him as saying, "We are proud of our friendship with Benazir." India is Pakistan's traditional rival.